15 senators file bill scrapping death penalty law

STORY ON PAGE A2

Solgen says Erap afraid of Clarissa

By Volt Contreras

WHO'S afraid of Clarissa Ocampo? According to Solicitor General Simeon Marcelo, it's none other than deposed President Joseph Estrada.

Marcelo said yesterday the upcoming presentation of "major witnesses" like Ocampo and former Estrada crony

SOLGEN/A6

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

Palace announces Holy Week-long break

**By Carlito Pablo
and Gil Cabacungan Jr.**

LOOKING for a long break? You can have it this coming Holy Week especially if you work for the government.

President Macapagal-Arroyo has ordered that employees in the private and public sectors be allowed not to report

PALACE/A21

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Wednesday, March 13, 2002 ★★ 64 pages / 5 sections / vol.17 / no. 95 P15 website: www.inq7.net

Loi: PDI book shows SC bias

'Justices all went to Edsa'

By Cynthia D. Balana

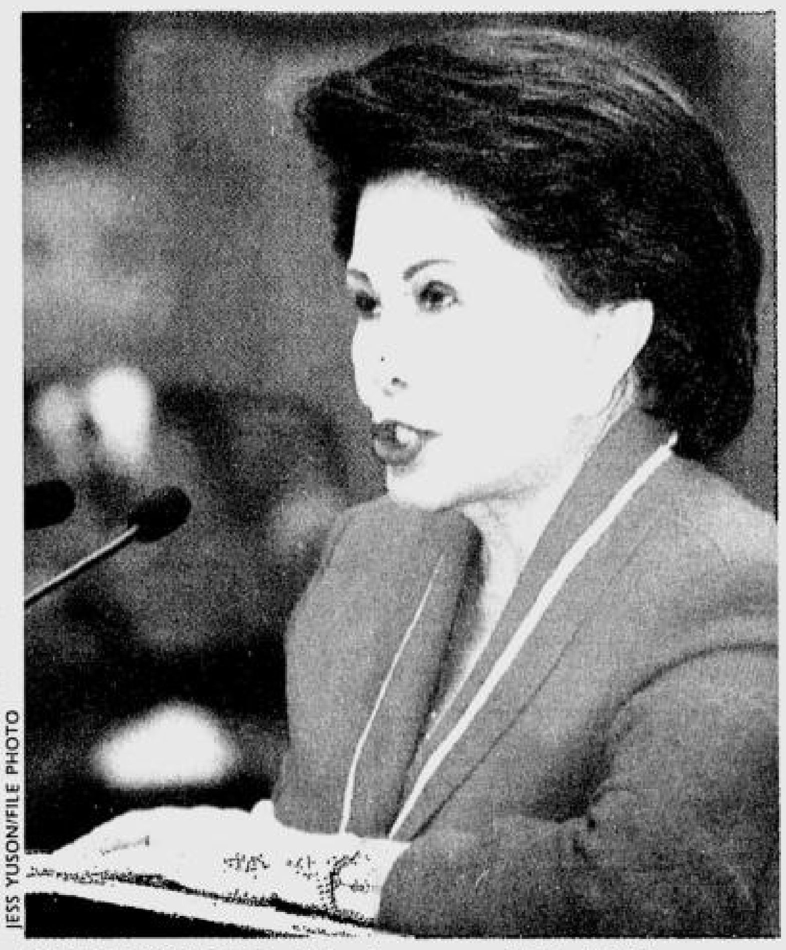
CLAIMING that she had confirmed the Supreme Court's true role in Edsa II from reading the book by INQUIRER columnist Amando Doronila, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada yesterday accused the high tribunal of prejudging the plunder case against her husband, former President Joseph Estrada.

"One thing is at least clear from the newspaperman, Mr. Armando (sic) Doronila: we know now for certain that all the members of the Supreme Court, then in Manila, went to Edsa on Jan. 20, 2001. Those who went there had prejudged President Estrada as a criminal," she said in an emotional privilege speech.

"The members of the Supreme Court, or a majority of it, will always rule against my family, for it has prejudged the cases against us on that sad and shameful day of Jan. 20, 2001. Why was there no effort on the part of the Supreme Court to communicate (with) and hear the side of President Estrada? This, certainly, is a betrayal of justice."

The senator was apparently referring to Doronila's new book, "The Fall of Joseph Estrada," which recounts be-

LOI/A6



JESS YUSON/FILE PHOTO

SEN. LOI ESTRADA: Davide's wife accompanied "certain Supreme Court justices" to a meeting with Cardinal Sin . . .

Palace sees 'theatrics' in March 15 Erap trial

**By Carlito Pablo
and TJ Burgonio**

WHEN the interrupted plunder trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada resumes on Friday, expect a show of force from his supporters.

"We expect theatrics on March 15," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao briefed reporters after the Cabinet oversight committee on internal security met late yesterday. "Obviously all of these have been planned and scripted for the March 15 hearing of the Sandiganbayan."

Tiglao was referring in part

PALACE SEES/ A6

Bush cites Macapagal guts in war on terror

By Jennie L. Ilustre
PDI Washington correspondent

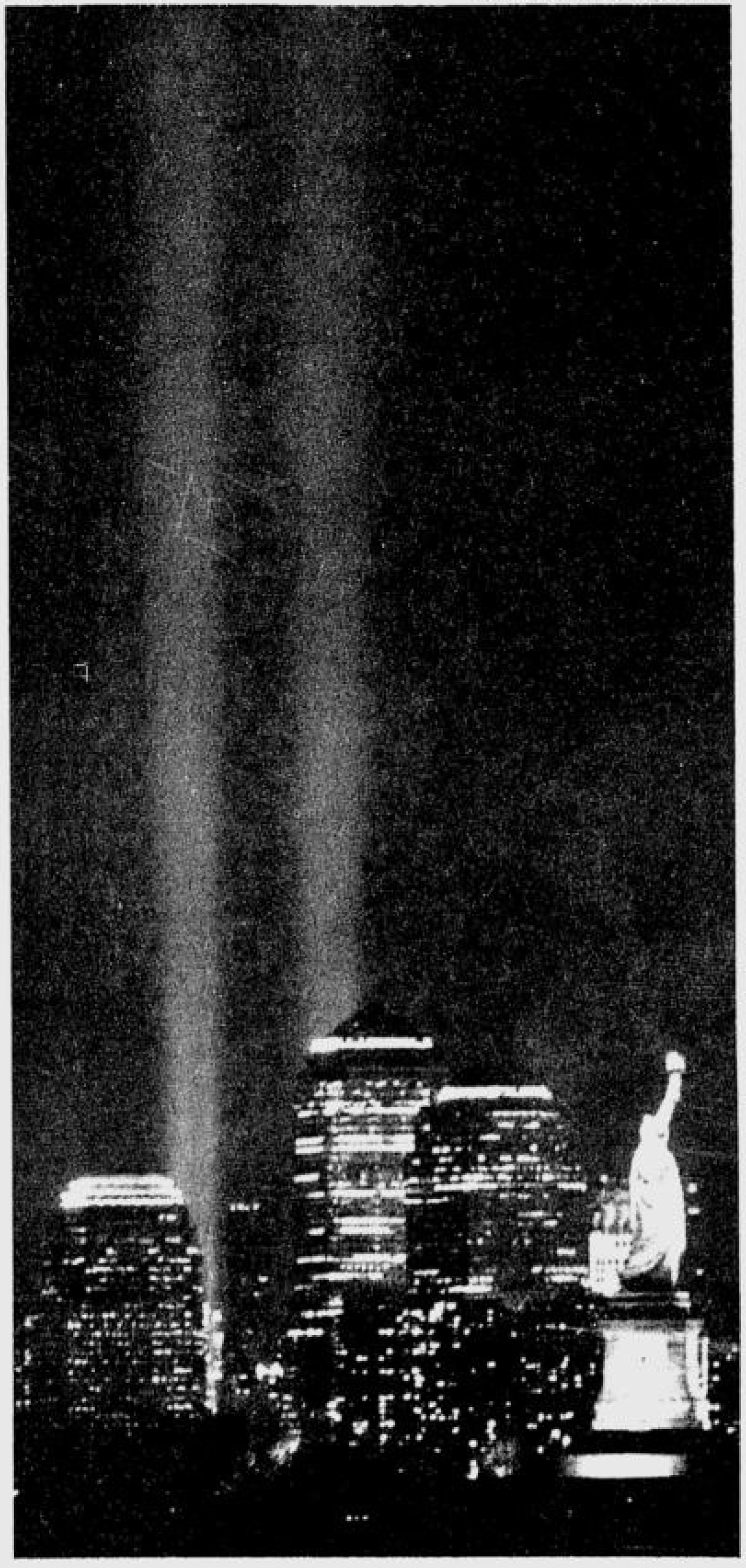
WASHINGTON—In thanking the nations which make up the anti-terrorism global coalition, US President George W. Bush singled out President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo, the only one he mentioned by name.

In the middle of his 20-minute speech delivered on Monday on the sixth-month anniversary of the Sept.11 attacks in the United States, Bush said: "We stand with President Arroyo, who is courageously opposing the threat of terror."

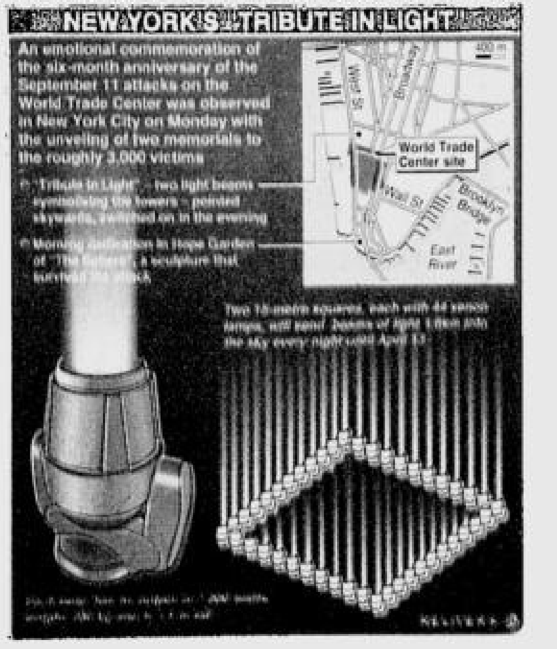
"With us today are representatives from many of our partners in this great work, and we're proud to display their flags at the White House this morning. From the contributions these nations have made—some well-known, others not—I am honored to extend the deepest gratitude of the people of the United States," Bush told over a thousand guests including about 300 families of the 9/11 victims and their rescuers.

Bush was flanked onstage by some of the coalition's ambassadors, including Philippine Ambassador to the United States Albert del Rosario. Behind him, colorful flags of the coalition

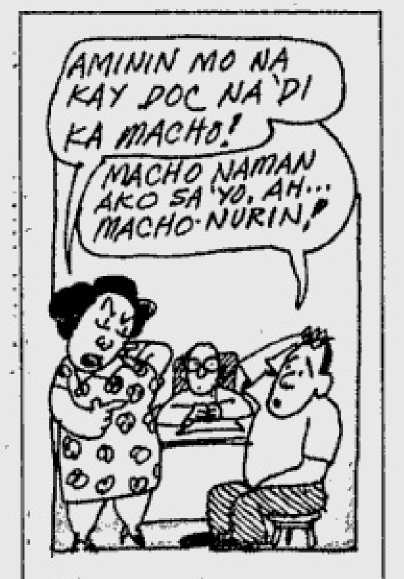
BUSH/A20



REUTERS.GETTY IMAGES



TOWERING memorials of the Sept. 11 attacks pay tribute to the victims and their rescuers and celebrate the courage of New Yorkers on the six-month anniversary of 9/11 on Monday. Two light beams stretching up into the night sky over New York (above) symbolize the fallen twin towers of the World Trade Center. They will be lit every night until April 13. (Above left) A survivor, "The Sphere," a sculpture by Fritz Koenig which stood in the World Trade Center plaza, is dedicated as a temporary memorial in New York's Battery Park. (At left) Map of New York locates the two memorials and the illustration and technical specifications for the spotlights above.


AMININ MO NA KAY DOC NA 'DI KA MACHO!
MACHO NAMAN AKO SA 'YO, AH... MACHO-NURIN!

These docs say macho Pinoys lousy lovers

By Armand Nocum

THESE ought to raise the hackles of the vaunted macho Pinoy.

According to Filipino doctors, most Filipino men know little about sex and are not comfortable discussing it.

As they grow older, they become even more "shy" to talk about their sexual inadequacies. If they do decide to seek medical help, they prefer to let their wives do the talking.

The doctors—members of a roundtable group

THESE/ A20

Cimatu chides US spokesperson

ZAMBOANGA CITY—The use of unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs) in Basilan to boost surveillance and intelligence operations on the Abu Sayyaf was top secret and should not have been announced to the media, the chief of the Armed Forces' Southern Command said yesterday.

Lt. Gen. Roy Cimatu told the INQUIRER that Maj. Cynthia Teramae, spokesperson for the US military, could have kept silent on the matter "until our intelligence analysts had come out with their findings and assessment."

He described the spy planes as "vital in our operation" to stamp out the bandit group holding hostage American couple Martin and Gracia Burnham and Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap.

Teramae told reporters Monday that UAVs had been deployed to help "provide routine aerial surveillance of the Southern Philippines in support of the (RP-US) Balikatan training mission under Operation Enduring

CIMATU/A20

RP to rethink WTO membership—Roxas

By Joel B. Escovilla
PDI Mindanao Bureau

DAVAO CITY—The Philippines will have to rethink its membership in the World Trade Organization (WTO) if some developed countries continue to impose tariff on leading Philippine exports, particularly tuna.

Trade Secretary Mar Roxas said the imposition of tariff on the country's tuna by the European Union was contrary to the WTO principle of promoting global trade.

"They preach one thing, they practice another thing," Roxas told reporters here on Saturday.

He said the country had already requested the 15-member European Union to reduce the tariff on canned and processed tuna to zero, but a 24-percent tariff was still being slapped on the products.

Roxas said this was in contrast to the zero-tariff imposed by EU members on their former colonies in the Caribbean and Africa.

"There is no reason why (the Philippines) can't (be granted) a zero tariff rate when it is a (former) colony of Spain, one of

RP/A20

Philip Morris accused of using defective filters

LONDON—Where there's smoke, there's fire. And international tobacco giant Philip Morris Inc. has its hands full dousing the fires of controversy engulfing the company.

American scientists on Tuesday accused Philip Morris Inc. of marketing defective filters on cigarettes for 40 years.

Researchers at the Roswell Park Cancer Institute in Buffalo, New York, said the filters released potentially harmful filter fibers and carbon particles while people smoked.

"The filter of today's cigarette is defective; Philip Morris has known of this filter defect for more than 40 years," Roswell's Dr. John Pauly said in a report in the journal Tobacco Control.

But Philip Morris, one of the world's leading manufacturers of cigarettes, said the filters did not increase the health risks of cigarettes and the company had not tried to hide the issue from scientists.

"We take very seriously scientific reports claiming that an aspect of our products could increase the health effects of smoking but based on our assessment of the available data I do not believe that the filters we use pose additional health risks to smokers," a spokesperson for the company said.

Ninety percent of cigarettes sold worldwide are filter tipped.

Pauly and his colleagues based their findings on 61 documents from Philip Morris, US patents and court documents and information from scientific and medical databases.

They said the company used the term fallout to describe the

PHILIP/A21

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SANA NGA MAWALAN NA NG BISA YAN!

15 senators file bill to scrap death penalty

By Cynthia D. Balana
and Jerome Aning

FIFTEEN senators yesterday filed a bill to repeal the Death Penalty Law and replace capital punishment with 30 years of imprisonment without parole as a penalty for heinous crimes.

PIMENTEL

The move was immediately condemned by anti-crime crusaders as "a brazen ploy to save the neck of former President Estrada."

This was denied by Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the principal author of Senate Bill 2060, which has apparently gained bipartisan support.

Estrada, who is facing plunder charges which carry the death penalty, has completely withdrawn from participating in his trial in what many believe is an attempt to escape prosecution and incite his followers to rise in his support.

The death penalty has not achieved the principal objective of modern criminal penology which was to deter crime, said the bill's co-authors who include Senate President Franklin Drilon and Senators Manuel Villar, Edgardo Angara, Blas Ople, Joker Arroyo, Juan Flavier, John Osmeña, Francis Pangilinan, Ralph Recto, Tessie Oreta, Vicente Sotto, Luisa Ejercito and Noli de Castro.

The death penalty was re-imposed seven years ago for heinous crimes. The 1987 Constitution had abolished capital punishment.

Pimentel said the death penalty ran counter to the other major purpose of modern penology, which was the reformation of a criminal. He argued a criminal who is to be executed can no longer be reformed.

"Neither may death be justified in a modern civilized state as an act of retributive justice," Pimentel said.

"Retributive justice rests on the old barbaric Roman law concept of *lex talionis*, 'an eye for an eye; a tooth for a tooth.' Pushed to its logical conclusion, the principle would require that the condemned criminal should also suffer the indignities, the torture and the pain to which he might have subjected his victim," he added.

Pimentel said legal penalties were justified mainly for three reasons: their deterrent effect, their potential to rehabilitate offenders, and as an act of retributive justice for the benefit of society.

He said he was pleased to note that some senators in the Senate majority supported the bill on the basis of the dictates of their conscience rather than on partisan considerations.

He said that with the endorsement of the senators, the bill would pass the Senate before the long recess in June this year.

Pimentel said he would also ask Sen. Robert Jaworski, who is in the United States, to sign the bill.

In a statement, the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption said: "We believe that these senators were motivated by no other reason, than to accommodate Mr. Estrada who is facing charges of plunder, a crime punishable by death."

VACC chair Dante Jimenez said the group's membership, which is made up of victims and survivors of heinous crimes was "outraged" by the resolution.

"We have thousands of crime victims still crying for justice. If the death penalty is abolished, it would be the saddest day for all victims of heinous crimes in the country," said Jimenez.

Jimenez also blamed Estrada for undermining the Death Penalty Law when, during his abbreviated rule, he issued a moratorium for executions to court support from the Church.

He said he found it ironic that some of those who supported the resolution either voted for or supported Estrada's impeachment.

"We will not allow politicians to make a mockery of our laws which they themselves enacted. Whatever their justifications are, the resolution is suspiciously untimely, outrageous and despicably unfair to the victims," Jimenez said.

He said it was the lack of political will to enforce the law that should be blamed for the rise in heinous crimes.

Drilon may keep Senate top post

By Raj Padilla
PDI Visayas Bureau

ILOILO CITY—Senate President Franklin Drilon may remain as head of the 24-member Senate by year-end if Sen. Renato Cayetano fails to muster enough support for his ascendancy.

He said he will remain as Senate president until Cayetano or any other senator will have the 13 votes.

"I am honoring my part of the bargain but this is not a property that I can bequeath. I am just one vote. Senator Cayetano should get the support of 12 other senators," Drilon said.

In July last year, Drilon and Cayetano, both belonging to the pro-administration People Power Coalition, hammered out a power-sharing agreement that will allow each one of them to serve as Senate president until 2004.

Under the agreement, Drilon will be Senate president in the first half and Cayetano in the second half of the Senate's three-year term or effective January next year.

Drilon won the seat courtesy of a two-vote margin over then Senate president Aquilino Pimentel Jr., who was backed by the opposition Puwersa ng Masa.

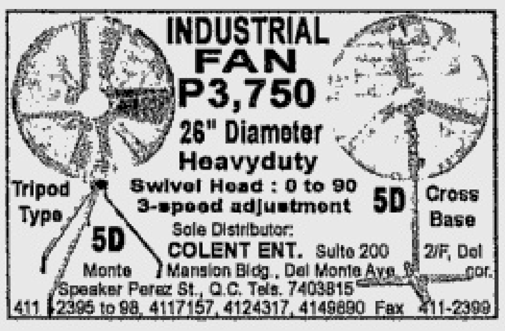
He got a total of 13 votes, including those of opposition senators John Osmeña and Noli de Castro. Pimentel had 11. Osmeña's and De Castro's then were considered as the "swing votes."

According to Drilon, when the time comes for him to give up the post in accordance with his pact with Cayetano, a resolution must be introduced on the floor declaring all positions in the Senate vacant, including that of the Senate president.

Then, somebody has to sponsor a resolution supporting Cayetano, now chair of the Senate committee on education, culture and arts.

"If there's none, nothing will happen even if I will support Rene (Cayetano). I cannot deliver without the support of the others," he said.

Drilon, an Ilonggo and who is being considered as one of the probable candidates for president or vice president in 2004, was in Iloilo over the weekend to grace the grand opening of Robinsons Place Iloilo and the Foundation Day of Antique province.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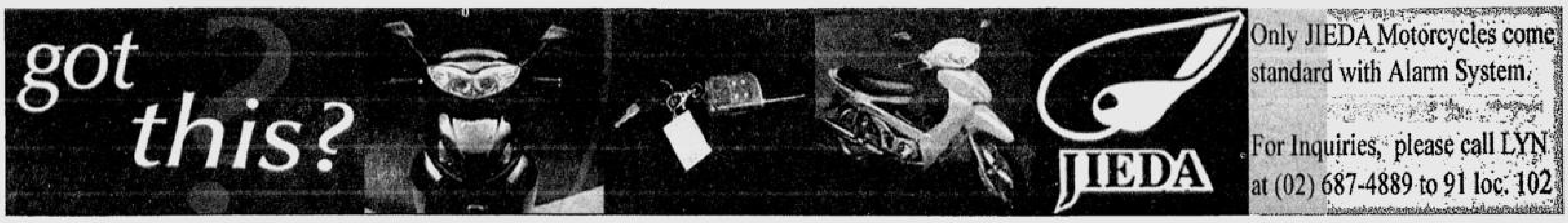
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Roco hit for taking 'immoral fees'

By Donna S. Cueto

EDUCATION Secretary Raul Roco is again being criticized by department employees for making use of his service fees worth P148,706.22 and distributing it to his consultants and staff last year, when he had claimed that these were "immoral and illegal."

Roco earlier criticized the practice, allowed in the General Appropriations Act of 1998, of DepEd employees being paid "service fees" as an incentive in the processing of loans of public school teachers.

Congress, through the GAA this year, had disallowed the payment of service fees to department employees this year.

The DepEd employees critical of Roco, including the DepEd employees' union, cited a memorandum Roco issued on Dec. 19, 2001, where he directed DepEd Undersecretary Ernesto Pangan to debit his service fees last year for distribution to 22 persons, mostly his staff members and consultants.

His chief of staff, Director III Hilda "Deeda" Villadolid, likewise waived her service fees worth P77,794.86, so these could be distributed to the 22 persons.

The combined amount of Roco's and Villadolid's service fees were P226,501.08, which were divided among Roco's consultants and staff.

"This authorizes the following to collect the amount corresponding to their names for their work in helping teachers secure their pay pursuant to Section 37 of Republic Act No. 8760," the memorandum signed by Roco and Villadolid said.

"Please debit service fees due undersigned," it said.

Among the 22 who received it was Percival Flores, a former Roco consultant who was promoted DepEd Assistant Secretary this February. He got P20,700.

There were at least eight other Roco "consultants" who received "service fees" courtesy of Roco and Villadolid, namely, Jeanette Bandiola, Jetka Lim, Ma. Cristina Calado, Araceli Felices, Angel Amaranto, Elvira Liwanag, Abram Abanil and Patrick Salamat. They received service fees from P19,596 to P12,420.

Thirteen more staff members of Roco got fees from P9,177 to P4,372.60.

Rallying DepEd employees said that Roco made them feel that they did an "immoral" thing for getting service fees, when he lectured them on it shortly after assuming the DepEd secretary post in March 2001.

"We were just surprised to learn that he had also collected his service fees from March to December last year, and distributed these to his consultants and staff," they said.

The service fees are equivalent to half of the salaries of DepEd employees who are directly or actually involved in the collection or processing of teachers' loans.

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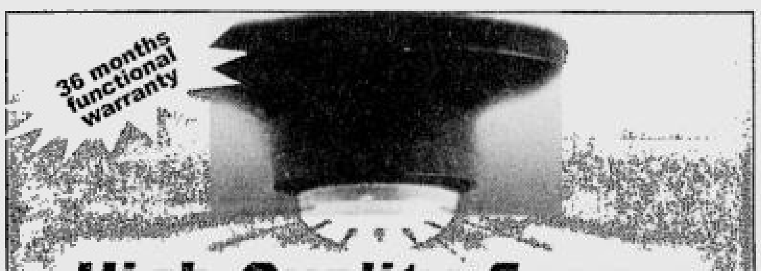

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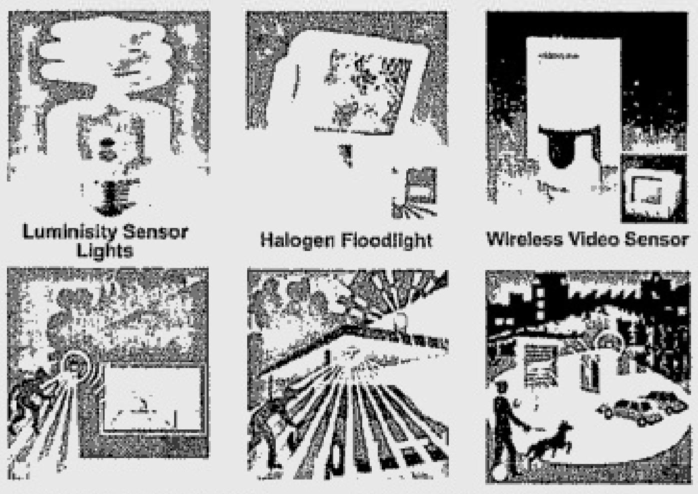

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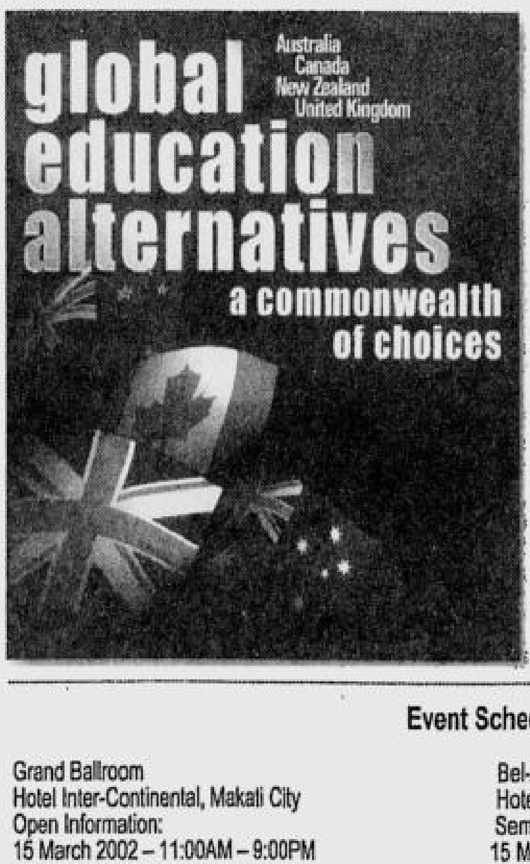

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Villar urges halt to onion importation

THE LIVELIHOOD of more than half a million onion farmers and their dependents is being threatened by the unabated entry of imported onions, Senate Pro Tempore Manny Villar said on Monday.

Villar, chair of the Senate committee on food and agriculture, took up the cudgels for the country's onion farmers and their families who sought his help at the Senate on Monday.

"We must seriously consider the revocation of the import permits on imported onions as it is hurting our local farmers," said Villar.

He said there was no need to import onions since local production, expected to reach 168,000 tons this year, will surpass the 160,000 national yearly requirement.

"The survival of our onion industry, which gives livelihood to hundreds of thousands of Filipinos, must be given priority," said Villar. He warned that the onion industry might suffer the same fate as the garlic industry, which suffered heavily from the entry of heavy imports three years ago.

Villar said that at a time where it is important to create more jobs in the country, allowing the continued importation of onions, coupled with smuggling, is contrary to government's policy of job-creation as it leads to job and income losses for farmers.

Local farmers, he pointed out, are hard put to compete with imported onions, particularly those from China as Chinese onion farmers enjoys large subsidies from government, something local onion farmers do not enjoy.

SENATOR Villar shows samples of the imported onions to the media during a press conference on Monday. JESS YUSON

Mendoza retirement to spark PNP shake-up

THE SEARCH for the successor of Director General Leandro Mendoza as chief of the Philippine National Police has narrowed down to a few senior officers.

Mendoza is scheduled to retire in September, six months after his 56th birthday, but two of his prospective successors will also be retiring by them.

The PNP chief's term was originally extended nine months up to December, but President Macapagal-Arroyo decided to cut the extension by three months.

Among his three deputies, Edgar Galvante of Operations, and Rex D. Piad of the Directorial Staff, will also reach their mandatory retirement age of 56 years also in September. That leaves Deputy Director General Hermogenes Ebdane Jr., head of the Directorate for Administration, the lone contender to the top PNP post.

Ebdane, in fact, had been tapped by Ms Macapagal to be Mendoza's successor. If she does not appoint Ebdane, it will not be the first time that the most senior officer is not named to the top post, PNP analysts said.

Previous presidents have been known to ignore seniority in the choice of PNP chief. The latest was President Joseph Estrada, who named his top lieutenant, Panfilo Lacson, as PNP chief.

Other factors in the choice of PNP chief are trust, track record, and integrity. If all these factors are considered, it will be a tougher choice for President Macapagal in September. By then, three deputy positions will also be up for grabs.

The seniority roster also limits the choices for the deputy positions in police administration, operations and the directorial staff. On top of the heap is Director Miguel G. Coronel, a classmate of Ebdane in the PMA class 70.

But Coronel is older than Ebdane and is due to retire this April. That rules him out in the succession list. Just after him, the most senior is Director Reynaldo V. Velasco, the present PNP Director for Comptrollership.

Seniority and track record make Velasco the top contender as deputy for either administration or operations. Coronel and Velasco have not been promoted despite the pivotal roles they played in Edsa II and May 1 Malacañang siege while most of the other contenders got theirs in the past two years.

Next to Velasco is Chief Supt. Victor Batac. But Batac is closely identified with Estrada. That would be a big handicap in getting a strategic appointment at a time of political uncertainties.

Most likely candidates for the two other deputy directorship are Directors Reynaldo M. Acop and Edgar B. Aglipay. Both got their latest promotions in 2000 and they belong to the same PMA class of 71 as Velasco.

Or maybe, the President will look at a deeper bench of third-line police generals, which include Jaime dela Cruz, Hercules Catalona, and Ramsey Ocampo. Others are due for retirement between now and next year.

In the seniority roster, they are as qualified as Aglipay and Acop although not as high profile as the two.

All others are far below the seniority totem pole. That includes Chief Supt. Reynaldo Berroya unless the President decides to disrupt the ranks.

Gloria asked to name new Comelec chair

By Juliet Labog-Javellana and Cynthia D. Balana

ANOTHER congressman yesterday urged President Macapagal-Arroyo to withdraw the nomination of Commission on Elections Chair Alfredo Benipayo, whose appointment has been bypassed by the congressional Commission on Appointments.

The CA's committee on national defense yesterday endorsed for plenary voting today the promotion of controversial Brig. Gen. Romeo Dominguez who was alleged to have received part of Abu Sayyaf ransom money in Basilan last year.

Dominguez, who was approved for promotion to major general, said he considered the committee action as a "vindication."

Nograles said it was "about time" the President withdrew the appointment of Benipayo and other commissioners who have yet to be confirmed.

"How can we expect the Comelec to focus on their mandate if they are also squabbling on the side?" said Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles.

'Water and oil'

The situation at the Comelec was "a case of water and oil," he said.

"One group can never get along well with another so the best and quickest solution for this hullabaloo is to get rid of the squabbling groups," Nograles said in a statement.

Nograles is the second administration congressman to ask for Benipayo's replacement.

Yesterday, Surigao del Sur Rep. Prospero Pichay Jr., who had filed a formal affidavit of opposition to Benipayo at the CA, reiterated his call for the replacement of Benipayo and Commissioner Resurreccion Borra.

Pichay said the "back-channeling" efforts by Speaker Jose de Venecia Jr. and three Senate leaders to end the deadlock at the Comelec was "an exercise in futility."

He said the squabbling between the factions of Benipayo and Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco would not be resolved by congressional mediation.

"You cannot make them kiss and make up because the issues are not personal but involve contentious issues and decisions involving the collegial nature of the commission. It can only be resolved if the voice of the majority would be heard," Pichay said.

New chair

"I think it would be best for the President to appoint a new chair who would be respected by the commissioners," Pichay said.

Nograles, who belongs to the ruling Lakas, said it would be difficult to remove Tancangco and the other commissioners who have already been confirmed by the bicameral CA.

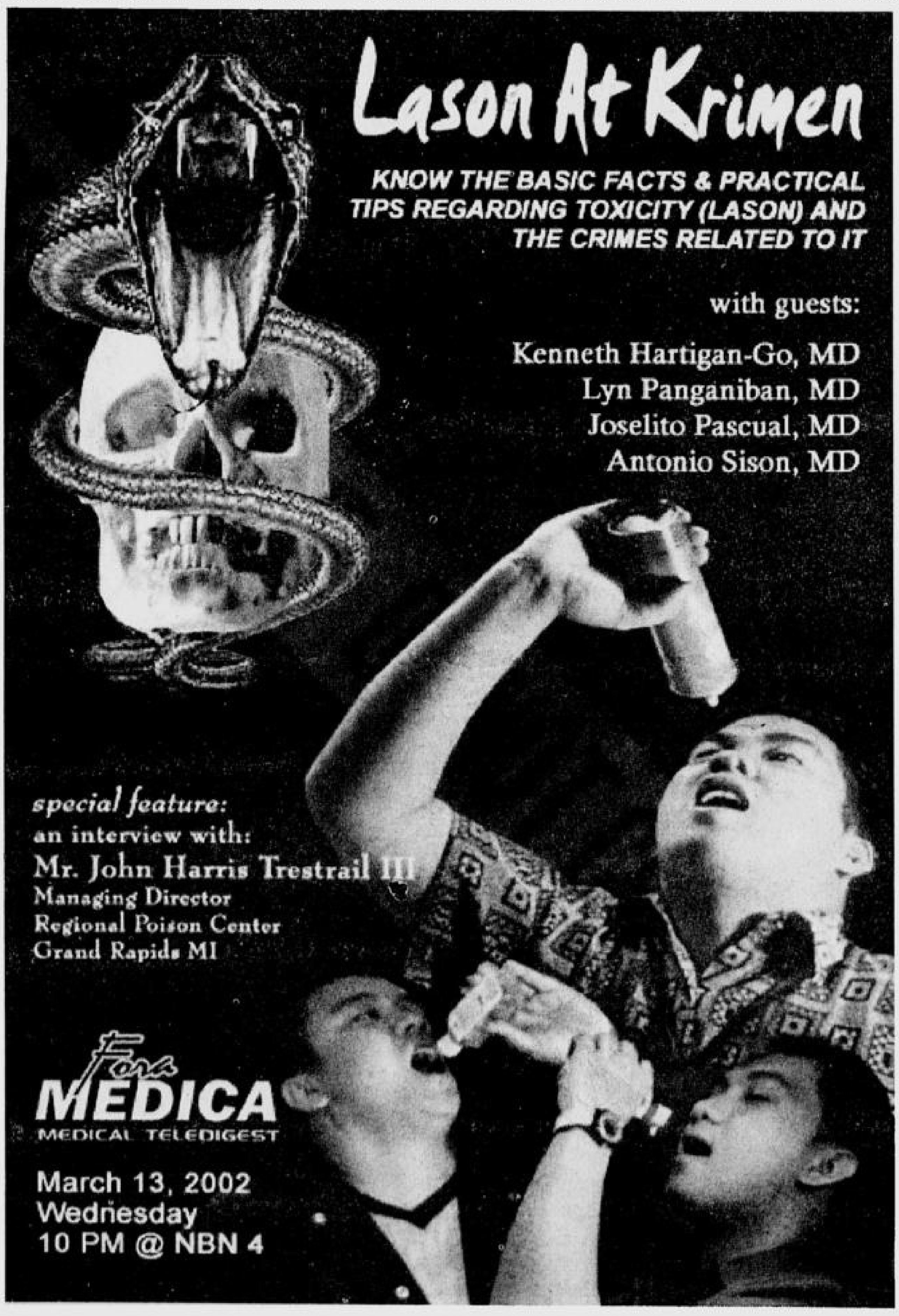
He said the only way to remove them was through impeachment, but this involves a very tedious process.

Nograles said it was important for the President to act quickly to resolve the impasse at the poll body because of impending barangay and Sangguniang Kabataan elections.

In his formal opposition to Benipayo and Borra's confirmation, Pichay cited their alleged failure to "demonstrate their leadership, vision and administrative ability in handling the official affairs of the Comelec."

Dominguez was earlier investigated by the Senate committee on national defense and security probing the alleged collusion between the Abu Sayyaf and some military officials in Mindanao.

A nurse named Fe Castro testified that she saw an aide of Dominguez carrying an attache case filled with money at the height of the military offensive in Lamitan against the Abu Sayyaf who had brought the hostages they had kidnapped from the Dos Palmas Resort in Palawan to Basilan.



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THE DAILY GOSPEL

Wednesday, March 13, 2002
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1st Reading: **Is 49:8-15**
Gospel: **Jn 5:17-30**

Jesus said to the Jews, "My Father goes on working and so do I." And the Jews tried all the harder to kill him, for Jesus not only broke the sabbath observance, but also made himself equal with God, calling him his own Father.

Jesus said to them, "Truly, I assure you, the Son cannot do anything by himself, but only what he sees the Father do. And whatever he does, the Son also does. The Father loves the Son and shows him everything he does; and he will show him even greater things than these, so that you will be amazed.

As the Father raises the dead and gives them life, so the Son gives life to whom he wills. In the same way the Father judges no one, for he has entrusted all judgment to the Son, and he wants all to honor the Son as they honor the Father. Whoever ignores the Son, ignores as well the Father who sent him.

Truly, I say to you, anyone who hears my word and believes him who sent me, has eternal life; and there is no judgment for him because he has passed from death to life.

Truly, the hour is coming and has indeed come, when the dead will hear the voice of the Son of God and, on hearing it, will live. For the Father has life in himself and he has given to the Son also to have life in himself. And he has empowered him as well to carry out Judgment, for he is a son of man.

Do not be surprised at this: the hour is coming when all those lying in tombs will hear my voice and come out; those who have done good shall rise to live, and those who have done evil will rise to be condemned.

I can do nothing of myself, and I need to hear Another One to judge; and my judgment is just, because I seek not my own will, but the will of him who sent me."

Commentary

Hear the new note sounding in the gospel? As if we've been taxi-ing along the runway, but now we're in position for take-off. As we draw nearer to Jesus' passage from this world to the next, the evangelist sees beyond the visible, tangible Jesus of Nazareth, to our Divine Lord and Savior. John invites us to gaze in wonder at this mysterious Son of Man, standing at the interface of divine and human. Today's gospel exults in the identification of Jesus and the Father. Every line proclaims it. A divine protagonist plays in our human drama! We may be journeying to Calvary but we are on the road to life—notice how many times the word 'life' occurs. How appropriate the joyous tone of the first reading: "Shout for joy, you heavens, exult you earth!... For the Lord consoles his people."

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DENR workers' unions bickering over Alvarez

By Gerald G. Lacuarta

ENVIRONMENT Secretary Heherson Alvarez's debacle at the Commission on Appointments has split employees at his department.

A new employees union yesterday accused the much established Department of Environment and Natural Resources Employees Union (DENREU) of misleading the media and the public when it allegedly misrepresented by coming out with a resolution opposing Alvarez's confirmation at the CA.

Albert Magalang, spokesperson and national VP for external affairs of the Kalipunan ng mga Kawani para sa Sambayanan at Nasyonalismo (Kalikasan), the DENREU wasn't being honest when it claimed that it was the voice of the 23,000-strong DENR labor force that opposes Alvarez's confirmation.

Magalang said Kalikasan still commands the support and respect of member associations and unions from six bureaus, 12 regional offices and affiliates from the DENR Central Office.

"Kalikasan believes that the criteria for a DENR secretary which we filed before the Malacañang Search Committee during the early days of the Macapagal administration will be met with the confirmation of Secretary Alvarez," Magalang said.

The DENREU, along with the Concerned Employees of Laguna Lake Development Authority (Cellda) and the Organization of Namria Employees (ONE), the other day issued a joint resolution opposing the confirmation of Alvarez.

SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Treachery—There is treachery when the offender commits any of the crimes against a person, employing means, methods, or forms in the execution thereof which tend directly and specially to insure its execution, without risk to himself arising from the defense which the offended party might make. Two essential elements must, therefore, be established, to wit: (a) the employment of means of execution that gives the person attacked no opportunity to defend himself or to retaliate; and (b) the said means of execution was deliberately or consciously adopted. What is decisive is that the execution of the attack made it impossible for the victim to defend himself or to retaliate. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Iglesia, G.R. No. 132354, September 13, 2001]

DIGEST BY R.B. VERA

Gov takes up cudgels for DOTC chief

THE NATIONAL president of the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines (Ulap), Rodolfo del Rosario, yesterday called on former Securities and Exchange Commission Perfecto Yasay Jr. to stop distorting the facts in assailing the integrity of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez.

Del Rosario, the Davao del Noprte governor, was referring to alleged factual errors in the full-page newspaper ads taken out by Yasay and other oppositors of the confirmation of Alvarez in the Commission on Appointments.

The ad had said Alvarez was "morally unfit" to be a member of the Cabinet.

Del Rosario, in a press statement, said Yasay's MASO, the anti-Alvarez coalition at the airport, purposely misrepresented the data by alleging that Alvarez was the chairman of the bidding committee that approved the PIATCO proposal to build the Naia passenger terminal 3 project.

"If Yasay was doing his homework, he should have known that the PBAC was headed by Mr. Primitivo G. Cal, and not by Secretary Alvarez. Then why is he purposely misleading the leaders?" Del Rosario asked.

"Yasay should be honest enough to admit he is just a paid mercenary who has picked up the anti-Alvarez line to earn a living," the Davao executive noted.

"Let's earn our keep the honest way," Del Rosario challenged Yasay.

Del Rosario said that Yasay was merely rehashing the same issues that had already been rebutted.

Another factual error noted by Del Rosario in the ad was the assertion that Alvarez was chairman of the House transportation committee, which investigated the DOTC-Piatco concession agreement.

"It was another boo-boo, Rep. Rodolfo Tuazon was the chairman of the transportation committee of the 11th Congress. How could Yasay be so careless in spending the funds of his anti-Alvarez benefactors by peddling a blatant lie?" Del Rosario exclaimed.

Impeach raps for 15 SC justices

By Juliet Labog-Javellana

AN IMPEACHMENT complaint against Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. and all the Supreme Court justices was yesterday endorsed by a lawyer to a member of the House of Representatives.

Lawyer Crispin T. Reyes charged all 15 SC justices of culpable violation of the Constitution when they allegedly "conspired" to legalize the assumption of Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into office as President on Jan. 20, 2001.

Reyes identified himself as the chair of the Anti-Graft League of the Philippines and the Public Interest Center Inc.

He said the Davide-led SC committed "judicial despotism," played "constitutional politics" and set the "most dangerous judicial precedent by ruling in effect that modern mob rule, euphemistically called people power, is now a ground for a change of government."

Reyes said jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada, who in recent weeks has been engaged in a campaign against Davide and the Sandiganbayan court trying him on plunder charges, was "only an incidental party in the important constitutional controversy which must be publicly ventilated."

But the congressman, who declined to be identified, said he would not endorse the complaint submitted to him by Reyes.

Under the rules of impeachment, a complaint must be endorsed by a member of the House.

"It's weak. Davide can get out of it," the congressman said. He said he would take another look if the impeachment complaint was "improved."

A second congressman, an opposition member from Metro Manila, is reportedly interested in endorsing the complaint.

Reyes called for the impeachment of Davide and Justices Josue Bellosillo, Jose A.R. Melo, Reynato S. Puno, Jose c. Vitug, Santiago M. Kapunan, Vicente M. Mendoza, Artemio V. Panganiban, Leonardo A. Quisumbing, Arturo B. Buena, Consuelo Ynares-Santiago, Sabino R. de Leon Jr. and Angelina Sandoval-Gutierrez.

He also included the names of Bernardo Pardo and Minerva Gonzaga-Reyes while noting that as they had already retired were no longer subject to impeachment.

"The above-named justices committed the charged impeachable offenses when they conspired to declare Joseph Ejercito Estrada as having resigned his presidency and Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to have filled up this position," Reyes said.

He said the SC does not have the power to declare the position of President vacant.

He said the high court violated the time-honored separation of powers between the three branches of government.

There was no justiciable case before the Supreme Court when the justices resolved that Ms Macapagal be sworn into office, he said. They "exercised political, not judicial power," Reyes said.

Reyes used as references the so-called "Angara Diaries," the account of Estrada's last hours in Malacañang by his then executive secretary, Sen. Edgardo Angara, and the book "The Fall of Joseph Estrada" by INQUIRER columnist and consultant Amando Doronila.

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- CUSTOMER INTIMACY: What It Is and Why It Wins?
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House set to OK SPAV bill

THE HOUSE was expected to approve on second reading last night the proposed Special Purpose Asset Vehicles (SPAV) Act of 2002 after the bill went through a thorough scrutiny for two weeks by minority legislators who believe it to be a "pro-bank legislation."

House Bill No. 4403 aims to address the problem of the non-performing assets (problematic loans and real estate assets) in the banking system by creating a legislative framework for foreign investors to take over these problem assets.

A SPAV could come in the form of an asset management firm, which would be allowed to buy NPAs of the banks.

As of December last year, banks had accumulated P486 billion in NPAs, or P306 billion in non-performing loans and P180 billion in real and other properties owned and acquired by financial institutions.

Manila Rep. Jaime Lopez, chair of the House committee on banks and financial intermediaries, said last night that one of the major amendments of the bill had to do with the period of disposal of the NPAs to be acquired by a SPAV, from five years to 10 years now.

Lopez said that during this period, a SPAV is entitled to certain incentives and exemption privileges.

Another amendment to the bill, Lopez said, was the inclusion of withholding and creditable income tax as among the tax exemptions to be enjoyed by a SPAV.

Department of Agrarian Reform
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NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC

Notice is hereby given that decisions were promulgated in the following cases on the date indicated:

DARAB Case No.	Title	Date Promulgated
5790	Heirs of Dionisio Amador, rep. by Herminigildo Amador vs. Rogelio de Mesa, et al.	May 18, 1998
6606	Jojo Almendres, et al., vs. Estanislao Espinosa	June 19, 2000

Counsels and parties to these cases, especially the following persons:

DARAB Case No.	Party/Counsel	Last Known Address
5790	Rogelio de Mesa	Lower Maname, Sabang, Naic, Cavite
	Atty. Alan A. Tan	Protestant Lawyers' League of the Phil. Unit A Shalom Center 1660 L.M. Guerrero St., Malate, Manila
6606	Estanislao Espinosa	Poblacion, Infanta, Pangasinan
	Atty. Froilan Siobal	Room 204 Puzon Bldg., E. Rodriguez Ave. cor. Gilmore St., Quezon City

are hereby advised to get a copy of the decisions from the DARAB Secretariat, DAR Adjudication Board, Diliman, Quezon City. After the lapse of thirty (30) days from the date of posting of this notice, without any Motion for Reconsideration or Petition for Review being filed, an Entry of Judgment shall be made and the decision on these cases shall become final and executory.

March 7, 2002, Diliman, Quezon City.

Acting Executive Director
DARAB Secretariat

March 13 & 20, 2002 – Inquirer

NEWSBRIEFS

No quiet retirement for Customs chief

ON THE DAY of his retirement, customs commissioner Titus Villanueva yesterday drew the ire of Sen. Robert Barbers after the former snubbed a Senate hearing to investigate alleged anomalies in the bureau.

Barbers was irked that Villanueva sent his chief of staff lawyer Aaron Redublo to the 9 a.m. hearing of the Senate blue ribbon committee. Villanueva had sent word he could not attend the hearing because he had to officially turn over the reins of the customs bureau to his successor, Finance Undersecretary Antonio Bernardo.

"I requested the committee to send him a subpoena. And if he fails to honor the subpoena I will move that he be placed behind bars…" said Barbers.

"The ceremonies, I believe, was a short one. That was scheduled at 8 a.m. He could have attended it but still come to the hearing. So what if this is his last day in office? This hearing is more important," Barbers said.

Magsaysay death remembered

MAGSAYSAY

THE 45TH death anniversary of the late President Ramon Magsaysay, third president of the republic, will be commemorated on Sunday.

Magsaysay perished in a plane crash in the slopes of Mt. Manunggal in Cebu on a flight back to Manila.

The occasion will start with wreath-laying ceremonies at 7 a.m. at the late president's tomb at the North Cemetery. This will be followed by military ceremonial honors by the Armed Forces of the Philippines. In attendance will be the Magsaysay family, friends and officers and members of the Ramon Magsaysay Memorial Foundation Inc. A Mass will be celebrated at 8:15 a.m. at the Sanctuario de San Jose, Greenhills.

Code-NGO backed

THE 100 PARTICIPATING members of the National Council of Social Development (NCSD) have unanimously agreed to express their full support for the Code-NGOs in initiating an innovative mechanism that will support and sustain NGOs in their effort to help eradicate and alleviate the worsening poverty condition of many Filipinos.

In a recent consultative meeting, the NCSD members also expressed faith in the moral integrity and credibility of the Code-NGO leadership.

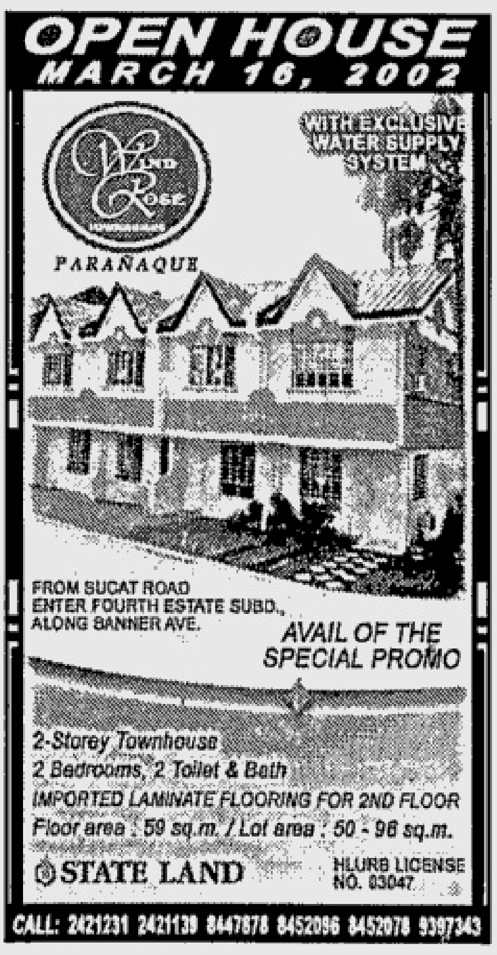
Fight for top jail post not yet over

THE DECISION of the Court of Appeals on the leadership of the Bureau of Jail Management and Penology merely tossed the issue back to the Quezon City Regional Trial where Senior Supt. Josue G. Engaño, the officer appointed by President Macapagal-Arroyo, has a pending motion for reconsideration to the controversial Oct. 29, 2001 decision.

This clarification was made by lawyer Mel Mauricio, new lead counsel of Engaño, even as he cautioned Interior Secretary Jose Lina Jr. against allowing Chief Supt. Arturo Alit to assume office as BJMP officer-in-charge as the case is still pending in court.

Mauricio said they will immediately ask the new presiding judge of RTC to proceed with the consideration of Engaño's motion for reconsideration, which seeks reconsideration for its October decision.

Mauricio also pointed out that Alit could not reassume the top jail post because it has been properly noted in the 15-page decision of the CA that his designation as OIC by Lina was effectively revoked when the President appointed Engaño as chief of the jail bureau. This, Mauricio said, was admitted by the Office of the Solicitor General during the Nov. 7, 2001 hearing of the petition for certiorari at the CA, he added.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Loi: PDI book shows Supreme Court bias

From page A1

hind-the-scenes events in Edsa II based on interviews with over 40 major players. Switching to Filipino, Senator Estrada claimed: "Now we know (what happened to the rule of law). According to . . . Doronila, it was a majority of the Supreme Court which decided who ought to be the rightful President. But this is not the duty of the Supreme Court according to our Constitution."

At the end of her speech, she seemed on the verge of tears, prompting Senate President Franklin Drilon to suspend the session for one minute. No senators attempted to interpellate her.

Acting President?

Senator Estrada claimed that "the whole world" heard Chief Justice Hilario Davide say he would administer the oath of office to then Vice President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as an "acting President, which was precisely how she presented herself in her first sentence after her oath-taking."

Adding to her husband's verbal attacks on Davide, who presided over the country's first-ever impeachment trial, Senator Estrada claimed that the Chief Justice's wife, Virginia, had accompanied "certain Supreme Court justices" to a meeting with Jaime Cardinal Sin before the high tribunal ruled on the constitutionality of the plunder law.

She said it was because of the "collective guilt of the high tribunal's members" that her family no longer expected to win a favorable ruling from the country's courts despite their battery of brilliant lawyers.

"The Supreme Court, having then made up its mind, will never admit that it might have made a mistake in going to Edsa on Jan. 20, 2001," Senator Estrada said.

"A politicized Supreme Court anxious to defend what it did in Edsa is not in the national interest," she added.

The senator lamented Sin's "unchristian attitude" regarding the congressional attempt to persuade the Sandiganbayan to allow the former President to receive medical treatment abroad.

She said her husband, instead of enjoying due process, was accused and presumed guilty unless proven innocent—the opposite of the constitutional right.

"The man who may well be the true President of his country is now denied not only the freedom of the city, the convenience of his house and the company of his family, but even the society of his friends and supporters. The justification is that he might flee," she said.

"They say this of a man who rejected the offer of exile three times after being forcibly removed from office. They say this of a man who rejected exile again and again," she added.

Senator Estrada also talked of a rumor that she, too, would soon be arrested for the same charge.

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2 SC justices shrug off Estrada attacks

By Michael Lim Ubac

TWO Supreme Court justices yesterday told reporters the high tribunal was not affected by the verbal war that deposed President Joseph Estrada had declared on it. But the man Estrada has targeted in particular, Chief Justice Hilario Davide, continued to refuse to make any comment, preferring to concentrate on work instead.

In unscheduled interviews, Associate Justices Sabino de Leon and Artemio Panganiban said Estrada's harsh words against Davide and the court had not compromised their integrity or impaired their ability to render fair judgments.

"I don't think it's affecting the SC. Those who are knowledgeable don't give too much importance to these comments of Erap," De Leon said.

De Leon and Panganiban were at the Westin Philippine Plaza to meet German academic Hans Koechler, who is here in Manila to deliver a lecture on the United Nations International Rule of Law and Terrorism.

De Leon stressed that as far as the high court was concerned, "(Estrada's comments have) not affected the SC's integrity or capacity to rule impartially."

De Leon, who was appointed by Estrada in 1999, said he believed that Estrada was just ventilating his opinions. "Well, apparently the poor fellow is trying to express some hurt feelings."

He insisted that the high court justices were not at all bothered by Estrada's vilification of the courts. "Personally, I'm not," he said. "We're not."

Pressed by reporters to elaborate, De Leon said: "I don't think (he) is affecting us."

Panganiban, appointed to the high court in 1995 by then President Fidel V. Ramos, downplayed the apparent attempt of the Estrada camp to undermine the Sandiganbayan and the SC.

Asked whether Estrada's broadsides had not made an impact on the justices' morale, Panganiban said: "We have not discussed that in court."

But he added: "We are not affected. Not at all."

Panganiban declined to comment on allegations that Davide had lobbied for his appointment as Chief Justice on Nov. 30, 1998. "I don't know about it," he quipped.

Estrada had claimed in a Net 25 interview on Monday that taipan Lucio Tan was one of those who had lobbied him hard to give the post to Davide.

The former President alleged that Davide was present during a dinner hosted by Tan at his penthouse suite at the Century Park Sheraton.

But Davide, who became one of the most popular Filipinos at the height of the Estrada crisis, maintained his reclusive nature and refused to talk to reporters. When reporters chanced upon him at the Westin, he said: "You know, I still have a visitor (referring to Koechler)." ***With reports from Carlito Pablo and Juliet Javellana***

Solgen says Erap afraid of Clarissa

From page A1

ex-Gov. Chavit Singson in the first-ever plunder case against a former president could explain Estrada's actions since last week.

Estrada may be trying to delay the trial "to prevent us from presenting evidence" at a crucial point in the landmark case, Marcelo said.

The latest of such dilatory tactics, he added, was Estrada's dismissal of his nine defense lawyers on Feb. 27 and his decision not to participate in court proceedings any longer. The dismissal forced the Sandiganbayan to reset the hearings for two weeks in order to assemble a new set of de officio lawyers for the ex-president.

Estrada's co-accused son Jinggoy, the former mayor of San Juan town, followed suit on Monday night, formally terminating the services of lawyers Jose Flaminiano, Rene Saguisag, and Cleofe Verzola—three of the nine who served his father.

Flaminiano said Jinggoy made the decision because "he agrees with his father" that they cannot obtain justice from the court.

The three of them will file their withdrawal of appearance this Friday, he said, when the court arraigns Estrada for his second perjury case and resumes hearing on his request to undergo knee surgery in the United States.

Sandiganbayan spokesperson Renato Bocar said the court actually "half-expected" Jinggoy's decision and "had prepared for it."

The court will likely appoint the same de officio counsel earlier tapped for his father, he added.

In another expected development, the elder Estrada yesterday sent rejection letters to the three private lawyers the court assigned to him, namely Mario Ongkiko, Rodolfo Jimenez, and Irene Jurado.

"I do not wish to waste your time on my cases, and for the sake of your descendants, I know you would not want your name to be remembered as an accomplice to kangaroo justice," he wrote.

Estrada said that while "I respect your credibility as a lawyer, I do not expect to win my cases before the Sandiganbayan" whose "singular mission is not to render justice, but to convict me."

In a radio interview, Marcelo said state prosecutors would shortly call to the stand three key witnesses: bank executives Ocampo and Manuel Curato, and former Ilocos Sur Gov. Singson.

He said he had been "deputized" by the Office of the Ombudsman to personally present the three in court when the plunder trial resumes next Monday, he told dzBB.

A check with the Sandiganbayan, however, showed that only Curato, along with Equitable PCI branch cashier Alejo Custodio, had been subpoenaed to appear on March 18.

Ocampo and Curato, both of Equitable PCI Bank, testified during Estrada's aborted impeachment trial in connection with the P3.2-billion "Jose Velarde" account.

Ocampo, the bank's senior vice president, then testified that Estrada signed as "Jose Velarde" on various bank documents on Feb. 4, 2000 in Malacañang.

In what many analysts regarded as a big blunder on the part of Estrada, the ex-President admitted during a cable TV interview that he did sign the documents as "Jose Velarde"—albeit as a guarantor of a P500-million loan to be debited from the account in favor of "Plastics King" William Gatchalian.

Singson had accused Estrada of pocketing a P130-million kickback from tobacco excise tax collections, as well as regularly receiving millions of pesos in bribes from big-time gambling lords.

Palace sees 'theatrics' in March 15 Erap trial

From page A1

to the reported mobilization of Estrada supporters, who are allegedly planning to use the trial's resumption as a launch pad for a series of mass demonstrations to commemorate the May 1 siege on Malacañang.

A highly placed intelligence source said Estrada's supporters might "try to physically block the convoy of Erap and prevent Erap from going inside the Sandiganbayan."

Another Cabinet source said Estrada organizers were actively campaigning among the urban poor in Metro Manila, although their network is reportedly not as active as late April last year, immediately following the arrest of Estrada.

"They are active in 2 percent of urban poor barangays in Metro Manila," the source said.

Director Edgardo Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, said he was ready to deploy as many as 3,000 policemen to deal with any protest rally on that day.

Hardline stance

Estrada's allies in Congress took the President to task for her hardline stance against her predecessor.

"*Sipsip* (bootlicker)" was Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen's initial reaction to President Macapagal-Arroyo's pronouncement that she would not countenance Estrada's attacks against the Sandiganbayan and the Supreme Court.

Dilangalen said the President merely wanted to get on the good side of the judiciary in order to assure Estrada's conviction. Malacañang "cannot distinguish what properly belongs to Malacañang and what properly belongs to other departments," he said.

He added that Ms Macapagal wanted to be the Sandiganbayan's drumbeater for one purpose only: "She wants to be aligned with these entities, so she is expecting something from this group. It's a quid pro quo situation. She will get the conviction of Erap. That is the ultimate objective," Dilangalen said.

Deputy Assistant Minority Leader Abraham Mitra of Palawan and administration Rep. Marcelino Libanan cautioned the President against turning combative on the issue.

"What we need right now is national reconciliation," Mitra said.

"We feel that the President needs the support of everybody to solve our political and economic problems and taking a combative stance will not help at all," he added.

Libanan, a member of the Nationalist People's Coalition, said that since Estrada was already in detention, citing him for contempt did not matter anymore.

"I hope both sides exhaust more diplomatic ways to solve this crisis in order to avert a political crisis that could derail our economic progress," Libanan said.

People's confidence

Tiglao said the March 15 mobilization was part of the Estrada camp's campaign to attack the judicial system and cause a loss of people's confidence in the courts.

"Any move to violate the law in such a campaign to denigrate the Supreme Court, our court system, will be dealt with the full force of the law," Tiglao warned.

He noted that the President herself said on Monday that the executive branch would not stand idly by as the integrity of the country's court system comes under attack.

"The full powers of this government will be used to defend all of our institutions," Tiglao said.

But he gave assurances that the pro-Estrada mobilization would not disrupt national life in the same manner as the failed May 1 siege.

"The intelligence estimate is there is no threat similar to the May riot," Tiglao said. "We believe that a lot of our poor have started to believe in the justice system, in the sincerity of this government in alleviating poverty."

"We think business would go on as usual. It would pass by us as a case of a person refusing to submit himself to justice," Tiglao said.

Estrada's trial resumes on Friday after a two-week break, after the Sandiganbayan suspended the hearings following the ex-President's controversial firing of his lawyers.

Aglipay told a news briefing that he would dispatch 1,700 to 3,000 members of the NCRPO's civil disturbance management units to the streets to maintain order should pro-Estrada supporters stage a massive rally on Friday.

"Otherwise, they would just remain inside the camp," he said.

Aglipay said he expected the day itself to be uneventful, adding that he was not aware of any plans by pro-Estrada leaders to stage rallies that day.

"It will just be a simple day. We'll do what we used to do during Estrada's trial. Based on our assessment, the people and PMAP are tired of demonstrations. Besides, the government has been able to address their concerns," he said.

When asked what they would do if Estrada refused to attend the trial, another official said: "We'll talk him into going to Sandiganbayan. If he insists on not going, it's up to the court what to do with him. We'll follow whatever the court orders."

Meanwhile, Aglipay voiced the belief that fugitive PMAP leader Ronald Lumbao is still in Metro Manila.

"I think he's just here in Metro Manila. Most of those who go into hiding come here, because people here don't pay much attention to one another," he said.

Police intensified their hunt for Lumbao a week ago following reports of PMAP's mobilization moves. Lumbao was charged with rebellion in connection with the May 1 attack and a warrant for his arrest was issued.

"The hunt for him continues because we were ordered by the court to produce him," Aglipay said. "If I were him, I should come out and face the charges." ***With a report from Juliet Javellana***

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Tax informer files rap vs SM owner

By Michael Lim Ubac and Doris C. Dumlao

BUSINESS tycoon Henry Sy Sr. was yesterday charged with plunder at the Ombudsman's office for allegedly defrauding the government of some P5.7 billion in taxes in 1994.

Danilo Lihaylihay, who claims to be the leader of the Confidential Revenue Informers Association of the Philippines, filed the taxpayer's suit as a private complainant.

The suit, which included another SM Group executive and three former officials of the Bureau of Internal Revenue involved the alleged transfer of five parcels of land from Shoemart Inc. to SM Prime Holdings in 1994 in order to avoid capital gains taxes.

Sy, the founder, chair and president of SM Prime Holdings, formerly SM Mega Holdings, denied the charges in a disclosure by the management of the SM Group to the Philippine Stock Exchange yesterday.

Lihaylihay asked Ombudsman Aniano Desierto to indict Sy and the five others for graft and alleged violation of Republic Act 7080, known as the Plunder Law, accusing them of "illegally, maliciously and feloniously connived and conspired with one another in cheating the Filipino people."

Also charged were Cecilia Patricio, the vice president and head of the tax division of the SM Group, and Rogelio Zambarrano, Mamerto Silangcruz, Armie Linsangan and Myrna de Ocampo, all former revenue district officers of the BIR.

Lihaylihay, a BIR informer, said the P5,753,658,842.70 represented the "basic income tax" that Sy should have paid the BIR.

The unpaid basic tax covered tax liabilities involved in the purchase of prime lots in Quezon City and Las Piñas where three of the SM malls are located.

Under the law, plunder is committed when public officials connive with private parties with the intention of amassing wealth exceeding P50 million through a series of overt or criminal acts.

It is a non-bailable offense that carries the maximum penalty of death.

In a disclosure to the PSE, the management of the SM group said that all the transactions regarding the transfer of the properties "were done aboveboard and that the SM group had not been remiss in any of its tax obligations."

It said the transfer of the properties qualified as a tax-free transaction under a BIR ruling based on Section 34 (c) of the amended Tax Code.

"All the pertinent documentary stamp taxes and transfer taxes had been paid," it said.

Liwayliway said the three former revenue had given unwarranted benefits to the retail giant in allowing the transfer.

"The transfer of real property of Shoemart Inc. should not have been considered a tax-free exchange because the articles of incorporation of SMPH reveals that Shoemart was neither the controlling owner nor registered stockholder of the transferee corporation, SM Prime, as required under the tax code," the complaint said.

Passport fees for OFWs cut

FILIPINOS abroad will now pay less to renew their passports, thanks to Malacañang's intervention.

The Department of Foreign Affairs brought down the passport fees to $50 from $60 for overseas Filipino workers abroad.

However, the regular passport fee here remains the same at P500.

President Macapagal-Arroyo castigated the DFA last week when she learned of their plan to raise consular fees abroad, including those for passport renewal.

Presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said Ms Macapagal told the DFA at yesterday's Cabinet meeting to "look for other sources of income" to offset the loss from the lowered fees.

"The President said a passport is a basic right of every Filipino so it should not be a source of profit," Tiglao said.

Misa, 66

JUAN "Johnny" Dancel Misa, 66, died recently on the feast of St. John Bosco in Sydney, Australia, at the home of his daughter Jenny, son in law Manny and grandson John-John.

An architect, Misa practiced his profession in the planning and construction management of sports complexes, beach resorts, residential mass housing, commercial and industrial estates in Cebu, Manila, Singapore, Saudi Arabia, USA Pacific Territories, Indonesia and Australia. An active member of the United Architect of the Philippines, he was a resource person and lecturer on the DESIGN and BUILD concept when this gained ground in the 1990s.

He was also an actor in several classic Tagalog films.

Misa's family marked the 40th day of his death with a Eucharistic Celebration at the home of his maternal aunt, Consuelo Dancel Sison, at 10 Alpha Road, Alpha Village, Capitol Hills, Quezon City.

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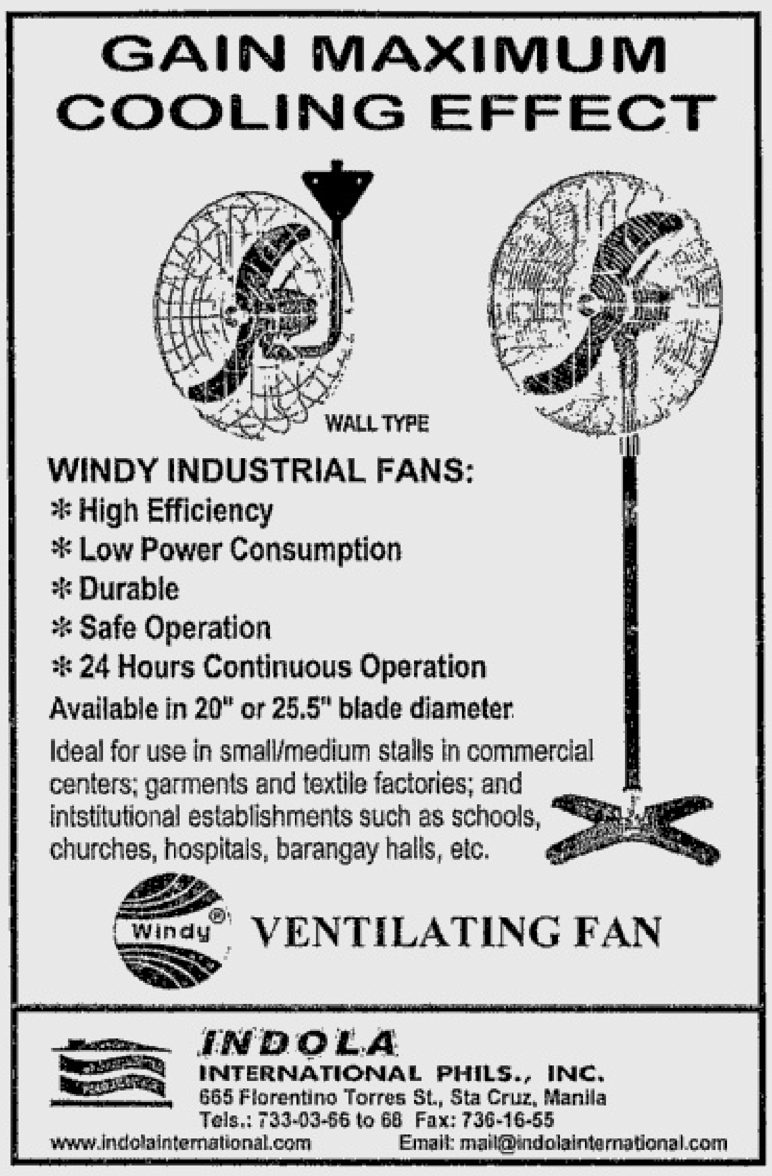
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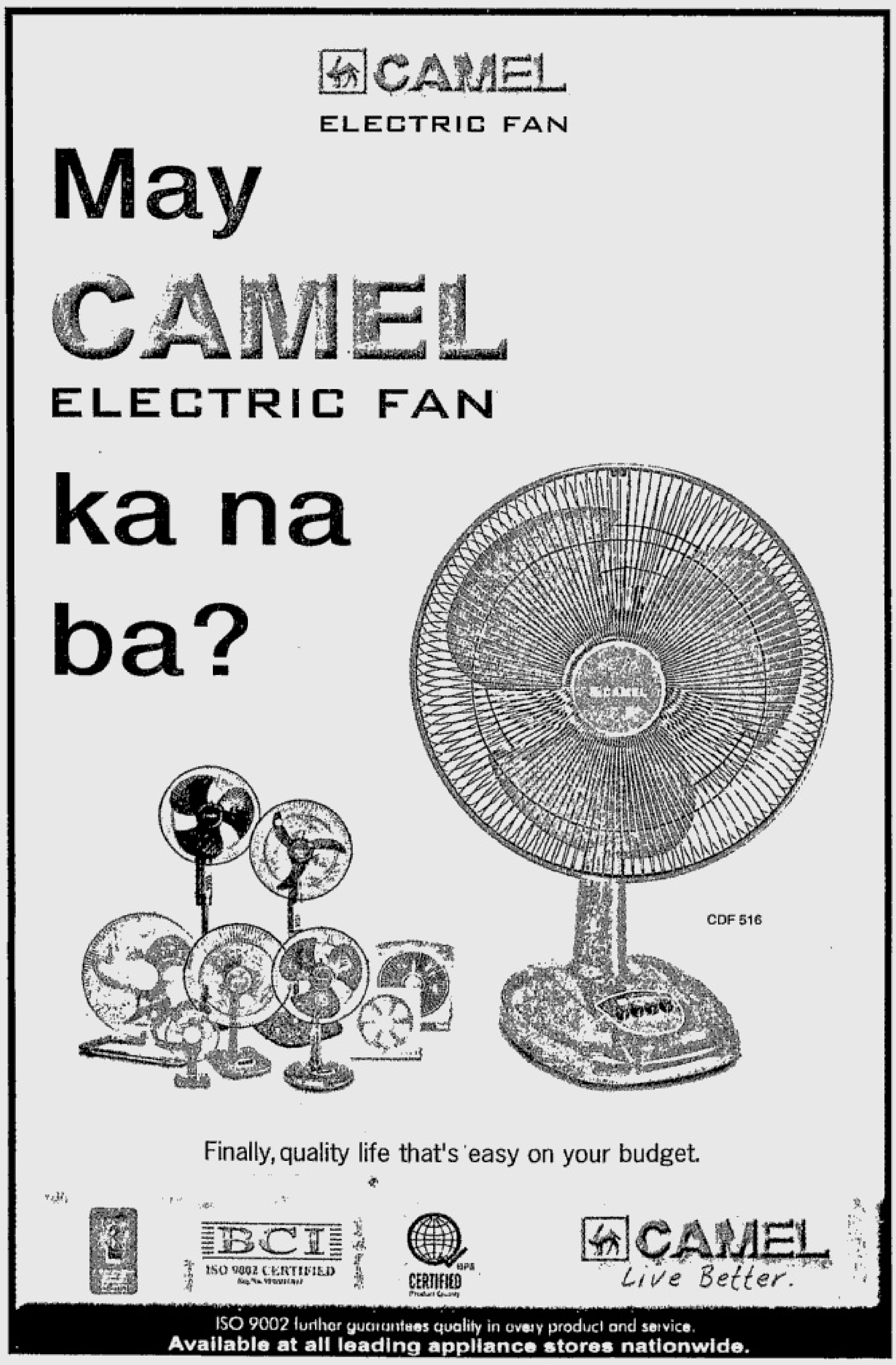
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Deadlocked

EDITORIAL

THEIR first attempt at "parliamentary diplomacy" quickly fizzled out when different sectors of society hooted down their proposal to let disgraced former President Joseph Estrada leave for the United States for medical treatment to head off possible violence in the streets. Critics immediately saw that as the first step to let Estrada escape punishment for the capital offense of plunder and other crimes without the benefit of a trial.

Unfazed by their failure, Speaker Jose de Venecia, Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel and Senators Edgardo Angara and Blas Ople launched on Monday another initiative to make the two warring camps in the Commission on Elections smoke the peace pipe. And this time they were joined by Senate President Franklin Drilon and the leaders of 10 political parties. Still the outcome was no different: the two forces remained bitterly divided.

Of course, that wasn't how the peacemakers saw it. De Venecia and Angara reported a "breakthrough" in their efforts to get the two factions—one led by Chair Alfredo Benipayo, the other by Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco—to break the deadlock that has paralyzed the Comelec and work as a team. The two factions agreed to come up with proposals that would break the impasse in the electoral body, according to Pimentel. "At least they agreed to start the healing process," he added.

Tancangco, who counts three other commissioners in her camp, making them the majority, saw it differently. She said her group's opposition to the confirmation of Benipayo and the two commissioners who support him was "non-negotiable." Dropping their opposition cannot be a precondition for reconciliation, she said, even as she complained that Drilon and the other political leaders seemed to be "pushing us to the wall."

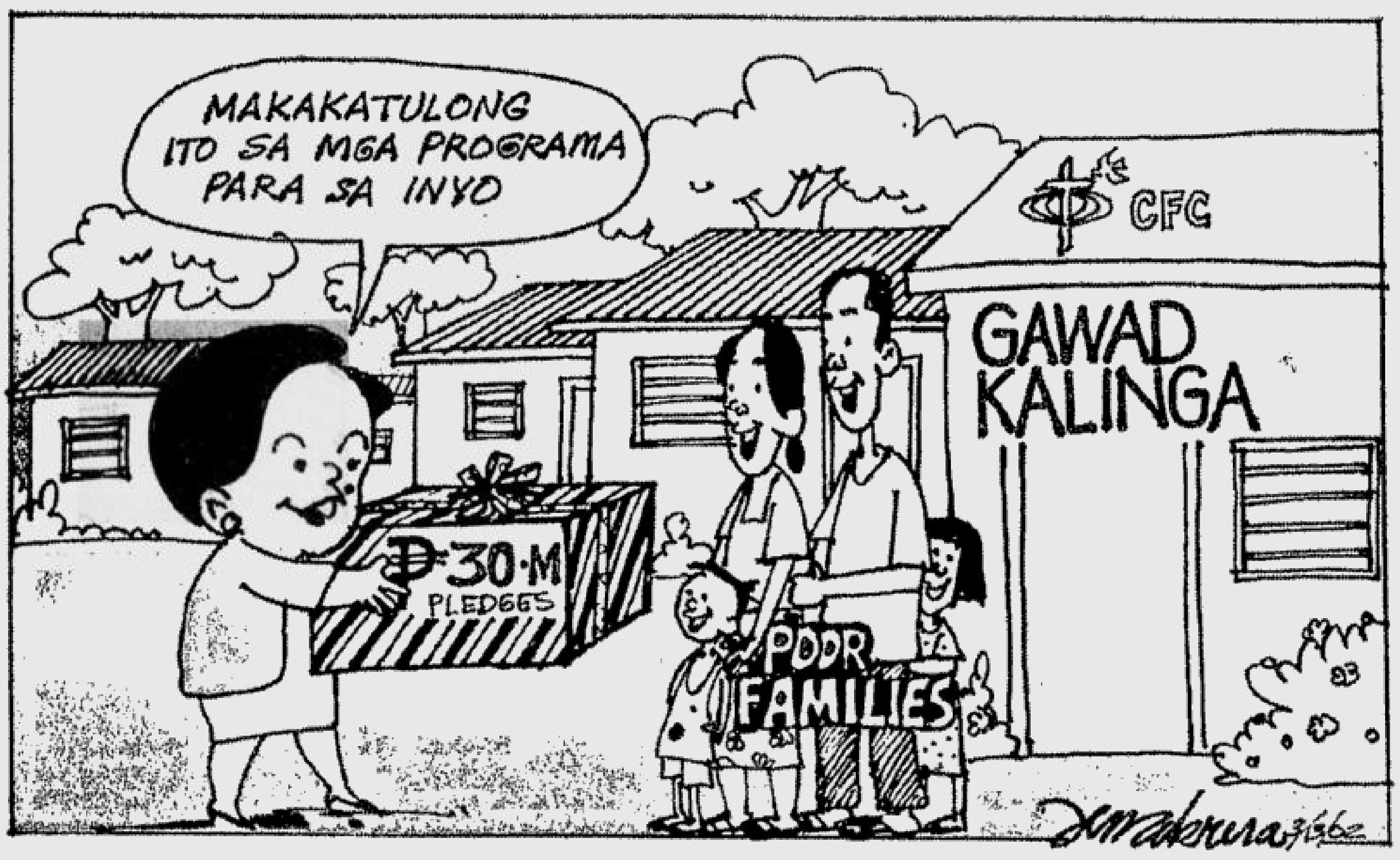
Obviously the differences between the two groups are too deep to be resolved in a single meeting. The division goes as far back as the term of Harriet Demetriou as Comelec chair when Tancangco and her group sought to impose their will on the electoral body. When Benipayo replaced Demetriou, the Tancangco faction blocked and opposed almost everything the new chair proposed.

This bitter rivalry has stalled the implementation of various programs to improve and modernize the electoral process like the computerization of the polls and the revision of the list of voters and led to the disfranchisement of millions of young voters in the 2001 elections. It has driven the Tancangco faction to file legal motions, without consulting the commission as a whole or government lawyers. It has moved them to take the unprecedented step of opposing the confirmation of their own chair and fellow commissioners by the Commission on Appointments. And it is believed to have triggered the murder of a senior Comelec official, Velma Cinco, who had been appointed education and public information director by Benipayo in place of a Tancangco protégé.

Given this history of antagonism and in-fighting, all the persuasive powers of Drilon, De Venecia and other leaders of Congress may not be enough to convince the two groups to work together as a team. Tancangco and her group seem to have smelled blood, with several individuals, including a congressman from Mindanao, coming forward to oppose Benipayo's conformation. And their thirst for blood must have been whetted by a report that President Macapagal might not reappoint Benipayo once his confirmation is bypassed.

When that happens that would be sweet victory for Tancangco and her clique. But it doesn't guarantee that the Comelec will start functioning again. Unless the new chair plays along, the Tangcangco group can be expected to be as uncooperative and obstructionist as ever. Probably nothing will satisfy Tancangco except running the whole show herself.

The other way to break the deadlock is to get Tangcango out of the way. Shortly after the last polls, the National Movement for Free Elections threatened to file an impeachment complaint against her for blocking the proceedings of the Comelec, failing to come up with a computerized voters' list and various violations of election laws. The congressional leaders, who are worried that the Comelec stalemate might last until the 2004 elections, should pick it up from there. It is useless to be passing electoral reform laws when the Comelec which will enforce them is hopelessly paralyzed by internal strife.



Erap, GMA as parents? We prefer to be orphans

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

THE PROPAGANDA war between President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as "Ina ng Bayan" (Mother of the Nation) and former President Estrada as "Ama ng Masa" (Father of the Masses) reminds me of a joke during the Marcos regime when Ferdinand and Imelda were billed as the "Father and Mother of the Nation."

If Gloria and Erap are the "Mother and Father of the Nation," the people were asked, what would they want to be?

They shouted: "Orphans!"

* * *

But here is good news for both Erap and Gloria. The former president need not go abroad for surgery on his bum knees. The operation can be done here, Dr. Mario Ver, head of the Institute of Orthopedics of St. Luke's Medical Center, assured with finality during the health forum yesterday of the Philippine College of Physicians and Mirror Weekly. "It is quite a simple operation, and we have been doing that for decades," he said.

As for President Macapagal, orthopedic surgeons can make her taller, as much as eight inches, through a limb-lengthening device called "Fitbone." Thus, from a height of 4'11", President Macapagal can "grow" to 5'7" in a matter of months. People don't have to look down on her and she doesn't have to look up to anybody. In fact, Sen. Juan Flavier will have to look up to her.

The process is done by cutting the bone of the lower leg or the thigh, inserting a stainless-steel tube through the hollow of the bone and screwing the two ends of the bone to it. A tiny motor then increases the length of the tube at the rate of .5 cm to 2 cm a day. The bone, which is screwed to the tube, separates at the point of fracture and lengthens. The patient doesn't have to have long legs but short arms and torso. All of them can be lengthened proportionally.

> To make a complicated situation simple, what if Erap pleads guilty and asks for amnesty? President Macapagal can then pardon him

Even already tall basketball players can be made even taller by this operation. Thus, a good but shorter player can have an advantage by having the operation. The resulting limb is as strong as the original limb and is in no danger of breaking at the point of fracture.

There are no more risks than in any ordinary surgery. The highest risk is infection. The patient can choose to have either local or general anesthesia. There is little or no pain during and after the surgery.

The most painful part is the cost: up to US$50,000 per. The tube alone costs US$10,000. But cost is no problem to either Erap or Gloria. They can well afford it. Filipino doctors even offered to do it for them for free.

They can be operated on side by side in the same operating room so there will be bonding between them. They can even hold hands to comfort each other during the surgery (how romantic). That should stop them from fighting. With such an emotionally binding experience, they will help and cooperate with each other in running the country. Can you imagine what that will do to the Philippines?

They will truly be "changed persons," literally and figuratively. Then they will really deserve to be called the "Father and Mother of the Nation." And the people will no longer wish to be "orphans."

* * *

I may be dreaming, but the possibilities for such bonding is immense. Take the problem of the plunder trial of Erap, for instance. It can easily be solved with the "Nixon solution." If you'll remember, President Richard Nixon resigned after the Watergate scandal and he was pardoned by President Gerald Ford whom he had appointed to succeed him. The pardon was obviously part of the deal.

To make a complicated situation simple, what if Erap pleads guilty and asks for amnesty? President Macapagal can then pardon him. Both of them can save face and still be able to enter into a *modus vivendi*. The Macapagal administration can claim justice has been served but Erap will still be free.

But that will never happen while there is hostility between them. That will happen only if they bond together during a simultaneous operation on their respective limbs.

Your mother

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I REMEMBER one particular Charlie Brown episode. Charlie Brown has just crashed another kite, and Lucy is trying to console him. "Don't worry, Charlie," she says (or words to that effect), "we all learn from our mistakes." Charlie Brown takes a moment to reflect on these words, and then sighs. "If that's so, then I must be the smartest man in the world!"

I remembered this after reading about Dante Ang's measure for gauging the success of his campaign to turn President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo into the mother of the nation. The campaign may be seen on TV in an advertisement where Ms Macapagal asks the people to support her programs, and which ends with the line, "Gloria, *ina ng bayan*." His measure of success for the advertisement, Ang says, is the extent to which the public talks about it, good or bad. "If they (the critics and the opposition) are very much against it, that means we did something right."

If that's so, then that advertisement must be the most successful advertisement of the last 20 years. If that's so, then Ang must be the cleverest publicist of the last 20 years.

When I wrote about former President Joseph Estrada's video some months ago, I said that my first violent objection to it, even before watching it, was its title, "Erap: Ama ng Masa." I am not naturally allergic to the word, "*ama*," but I am allergic to it when it is used in conjunction with the nation or people. It resurrects a world or culture that is best left buried and forgotten. The world or culture of serfs and peasants paying obeisance to their landlord, taking him to be the giver of all and the taker of all, from whom they may on occasion claim some bursts of benevolence.

The values are feudal, the relationships paternalistic. Little wonder that they thrive best in authoritarian settings, despotic rulers carving an image of themselves as strict fathers who know what's best of their children. That was what Ferdinand and Imelda did, lest we forget. They did not just turn themselves into Malakas at Maganda, they turned themselves into the father and mother of the nation. As people used to say then—as well we should say now—if that's our mother and father, we'd rather be orphans.

Comes now Ms Macapagal doing exactly the same thing. That she cannot blame her publicist for, she does not exactly come out as an unwilling conscript here. "Ate" at least you can still tolerate. While it smacks of atavism, it is not as resolutely anti-democratic. An older sister you can defer to for being older and presumably wiser, but you do not have to take her advice all the time. You can always disagree with her. A mother is another thing, particularly in our culture. While presumed to be the font of kindness, she is also an inviolable presence whose word takes on the aspect of law, or something writ in tablet. Maternalism may have its own nuances, which make it slightly different from paternalism. But they have something very much in common, which is that democracy cannot grow from them.

Ang himself defends this by saying that they had to do it to counter Erap's propaganda, contained in the video Erap released last December. If Erap can be the "*ama ng masa*," Gloria can be the "*ina ng bayan*." What an idiotic thing to say. If the former despot has a private army, the current President will fight it by building a private army of her own? If the former despot has his *berdugos*, the current President will fight it by keeping *berdugos* of her own? While at this, that seems to be the very logic Ms Macapagal is following in turning Reynaldo Berroya into her own version of Erap's Panfilo Lacson. But I'll have more to say about that in another column.

Ms Macapagal's defenders will say again that this is making a big deal out of a small thing. But there is nothing small in the effort to sell the President as the "*ina ng bayan*." It assails the moral foundation of the nation, which is one built on egalitarian and libertarian values. It worms into the nation's values and attitudes, corrupting them, throwing them back to a benighted time rather than moving them forward to a brighter future.

Certainly, it is not something you would expect from a beneficiary of the highest expression of democratic initiative, which is "people power." Particularly the last one, which was more spontaneous than the first, which harked to knocking of conscience rather than the clarion call of any leader, which was consequently "people power" in every conceivable sense of the word. And which happened in spite of Ms Macapagal, who was nowhere to be found when the outcome of the fight still remained uncertain, as *ate*, or *ina*, or whatever familial relation she now calls herself. As it is, she should be glad to be called "*anak ng* Edsa II," and even gladder "*sa labas*" is not added to the "*anak*."

You do not fight propaganda by spreading more propaganda, you fight it by telling the truth. You do not fight paternalism by spreading more paternalism—or maternalism—you fight it by showing that the people are perfectly capable of taking care of themselves: They did it before, they'll do it again. You do not fight someone who darkens the world with myth and deception by darkening the world even more with your own myths and deceptions, you fight it by radiating the light of reason.

Jess Abrera is right to have his famous carabao reacting to the phrases, "*ama ng masa*" and "*ina ng bayan*," with the cry, "*Anak ng tupa!*" And that is only because this is a respectable paper that cannot print the thing the unfortunate sheep stands for. I myself prefer to paraphrase Gerry Kaimo's retort to Imelda Marcos when she was given the Ulirang Ina Award a couple of years ago:

Ulirang ina nyo.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Dealing with Estrada's bluff

ANALYSIS

Amando Doronila

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo has decided to take a tough staunch on former President Joseph Estrada after the latter had rebuffed her conciliatory gesture of visiting him at the Veterans Memorial Medical Center. Estrada refused to see her, and official denial that she visited did not mitigate the snub.

It prompted her to drop her policy of appeasement with Estrada. She warned, "the presidency will not stand aside in the face of insidious machinations to take the struggle out of the courtroom," and she would use the weight of presidential authority to crush any conspiracy to "foment public disorder."

It rudely shocked her into discarding the illusion that a conciliatory policy would soften Estrada who has gone berserk by viciously attacking the courts of justice for allegedly denying him a fair trial and, what is worse, inciting people to rise against a political and judicial order that has put him on trial for alleged plunder.

The President's tough response is a strong signal ending the "back channel" efforts by political leaders to seek a political compromise over Estrada's demand that he be allowed to leave the country for medical treatment in the United States—a demand that is a disguise for his objective to seek political asylum abroad and evade a judicial decision on his cases.

In his snub, Estrada has lost a lot of public sympathy, for he has not only tried to hold the nation hostage to his threat to bring the political system crashing on our head; he has, indeed, pointed a revolver at the nation. Ms Macapagal now realizes that giving in to this threat spells the end of her administration because it would mean capitulation to the demands of Estrada, who is now, for all intents and purposes, an outlaw.

President Macapagal has, since the May 1 rebellion fomented by Estrada's cohorts, wavered between appeasement and tough posturing. She visited Estrada early in his detention at the Philippine National Police camp in Sta. Rosa, Laguna. She has given way to his demands for transfer from Sta. Rosa to the VMMC, where she caused to be built special accommodations for him as a gesture of being "compassionate." Estrada does not appreciate compassion. Her concessions and retreat were taken by Estrada as signs of weakness and they generated more demands culminating in the pressure that he be allowed to go abroad for medical treatment or else the government faces a rebellion from the streets.

This policy of appeasement has proved to be a failure and even an incentive to more arrogant propositions. For sometime now, President Macapagal has not made up her mind whether to be tough or soft. She has come under criticism for being churlish (*"mataray"*), for having a bad temper. Recently, on advice of some of her image-makers and spin doctors, she has tried to present a softer image—which included the recent visit to Estrada. The President better stick to what she really is.

The presidency is not a place for those with weak stomachs or for wimps. Filipinos don't respect weakness or weak leaders. They do best under leaders who scold them or are tough to them—remember the tempestuous and volcanic President Manuel L. Quezon or President Ferdinand Marcos, who imposed martial law. Filipinos respond to strong leadership. They fall in line under the whip of strongmen or strongwomen, but strong leadership has to be matched by fairness and honesty in office. If leadership is tough but dishonest and unfair, you will find that in the end the people will overthrow that leadership. Filipinos despise weak leaders.

President Macapagal has apparently been traumatized by the May rebellion and clearly she does not want a replication of that uprising. Because of that experience, she seems insecure. The President, in dealing with the antics of Estrada, is underestimating her strength and support and overestimating those of Estrada. She has gone out of her way to appease Estrada in the belief that he can mobilize support inside the Armed Forces and the Philippine National Police and among the urban poor.

Since Jan. 20, 2001, the President has consolidated her political position and support from the Armed Forces and the PNP. The military has no fundamental reason to switch allegiance. Her policy of support for the US war on terrorism has brought military aid and cooperation that can enhance the capability of the military to crush internal insurgencies and lawlessness, including those instigated by Estrada and his partisans, and to push its modernization program. She has got things done in Congress which remains in control of administration allies. There has been no leadership change in both Houses of Congress, the slim majority of administration senators have stood together against attempts to unseat Senate President Franklin Drilon.

The economy is growing—albeit slowly—and with the recovery of the global economy, the local economy can only be lifted by it. We should not expect dramatic economic growth or even big gains in poverty alleviation, but if the President reassesses her position, she will find that her insecurity is unfounded. She should not worry over the perception that she is petulant or has a short fuse. Between being a wimp and a marshmallow and being a person with a spine of steel, the latter is certainly preferable in dealing with Estrada's bluff

Teaching them a lesson

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

EARLY this month, the National Labor Relations Commission (NLRC) rendered a decision giving a record award of P170 million to a Filipino executive who was deemed illegally dismissed last December 2000.

Now under appeal, the NLRC decision granted Jocelyn Mendoza-Galera, former managing director of MindShare Philippines, her appeal for reinstatement and for the payment of actual, moral and exemplary damages. Explaining the amount granted to the complainant, labor arbiter Edgardo Madriaga said that "while the award may seem enormous by Philippine standards," he noted that WPP Group plc, the mother corporation of MindShare Philippines, is a Fortune 500 company. It is also, he said, "a huge global multinational firm which has under its umbrella over 300 multinational corporations in more than 72 countries, among which are J. Walter Thompson Company, Ogilvy & Mather, Young & Rubicam and a host of other high profile global companies."

At the time she was hired to head MindShare Philippines, Galera had been living in the United States for many years and in fact had been granted naturalized citizenship. Thus, she was hired as an expatriate, and a large part of the award constitutes her backpay (in US dollars) for over a year.

Before moving to the United States to join her husband, Jo Galera had been co-founder and vice president for media of Campaigns & Grey for eight years, general manager for Apex Media Marketing Inc. for four years, and associate media director for J. Walter Thompson for four years. Despite her experience, she had to "start from scratch" in the United States, though by the time WPP began its "courtship," she had established herself in Silicon Valley and was contemplating an offer to join Sun Microsystems.

* * *

AS Jo tells it, it was the prospect of opening an entirely new office in her old stomping grounds that led her to "bite" at WPP's offer. "I promised my husband that I would need only two years, tops, to set up and stabilize the office," she recalls.

The wooing took all of six months, during which, says Jo, she was "flown and billeted first class and limousined" to her interviews in New York and was then given an all-expenses-paid observation tour of MindShare Asia-Pacific operations. Only then did she agree to join and was taken on as managing director of MindShare Philippines.

Her mandate as the first managing director, says Jo, was to set up and launch the combined media divisions of WPP Marketing Communications Inc. (JWT), Ogilvy & Mather, and a third multinational agency. MindShare Philippines would become the country's biggest independent media agency, "flexing an initial media clout of P2 billion upwards."

Under her lead, MindShare was able to snag designations as "agency of record" by Pfizer Inc. and International Distillers Philippines Inc. For these accomplishments, she was even sent congratulatory messages by John Steedman, chair for MindShare Asia Pacific.

* * *

SO it's a mystery to Jo why, on Dec. 15, 2000, Steedman called her for a meeting which lasted for all of five minutes, during which he informed her that she was terminated "effective immediately." "When I wanted an explanation and asked for a chance to defend myself, he abruptly dismissed me," recalls Jo.

Before she left his office, Steedman "stonily" informed her that WPP would pay her three months severance pay and relocation expenses and since she was leaving for the United States a few days hence for the holidays, it was up to her to decide whether she would return to the Philippines or not. That afternoon, Jo says she was scheduled to present a bid for the Pepsi account, but Steedman ordered her not to attend the meeting.

Only later would Jo receive a formal letter, dated Dec. 15, informing her of her termination effective Dec. 14. Hours before Steedman talked to Jo, Minda Lansang, who is the present head of MindShare Philippines and a consultant at that time, also sent e-mails to all their clients and associates to inform them of Jo's termination.

* * *

STUNNED by the sudden turn of events, Jo called Lansang shortly after the meeting with Steedman and was advised not to report for work the next day as it would be "awkward" since Steedman was going to tell the staff about Jo's departure. At the Christmas party a few days later, Jo sought out Lansang, who advised her: "If I were you, I won't fight WPP. I will just walk away quietly. WPP is a big company and you will waste time, money and energy fighting such a big company."

Perhaps because of the sudden turn of events and seemingly inexplicable decision to fire her, Jo also had to contend with speculations that ran rife through the advertising industry about the "real" reasons for her abrupt departure. And perhaps to illustrate WPP's clout in the industry, Jo says that she received "not one call" from other agencies or media groups, aside from friends commiserating and offering their sympathies.

This, she says, is the reason she persevered with her case of illegal dismissal, even if it meant spending her own money for periodic trips from the United States. The unprecedented award, she hopes, will teach multinational employers that they can't treat their Filipino employees shabbily and get away with it. As the NLRC decision put it, the award is "just compensation for the agony, besmirched reputation and mental anguish that complainant suffered on account of not only the unprofessional and undignified treatment she received from (the respondents) but also their bad faith."

Promising pre-colonial archeolcgical site

LOOKING BACK

Ambeth R. Ocampo

I AM half-Kapampangan, my father is Kapampangan, my mother a Tagalog. This accident of birth, plus countless weekends and summers in my grandparents' compound in San Fernando, should have given me an insider's take into Kapampangan culture, but sadly all I came out with was a highly developed sense of taste. While I imbibed much of my father's food culture, I was limited in other areas because I was not fluent in his language. Mother insisted on English at home—mostly *yaya* English—and discouraged use of my father's language, fearful that we would develop the distinct "Kafamfangan" accent complete with its misplaced "h" and characteristic intonation. Thus, I can understand spoken Kapampangan perfectly but speak it imperfectly. My younger sister can understand but cannot speak it. My youngest sister, like my mother, cannot speak or understand it and are usually at the butt-end of jokes spoken in their faces.

Born and raised in Manila, I rediscovered my roots about 20 years ago when I visited the churches in the province, attended fiestas and took notice of Holy Week rituals. Later, I gathered archival materials on Pampanga and began work on our family tree. Without institutional support, all this fizzled out. If I started today I would find like-minded people in the Nepomuceno Center for Kapampangan Studies inaugurated last Friday at the Holy Angel University, Angeles City. Now my spotty research materials can lead somewhere. For example, in Dean Worcester's notes preserved in the Bentley Historical Collection in Ann Arbor is this clipping from the Manila Times of Oct. 8, 1922 about a bearded ghost:

"After a period of tranquility dating back to the Filipino revolution, the pleasant Pampanga town of Arayat, lying at the base of the mighty mountain of that name, has come into the limelight with the novel appearance of a day-time ghost. Legends cluster thickly about this district, the possession of which was hotly contested by the Filipinos and Americans in the famous year of 1899 when the heights of Sinukuan, as the dialect terms the mountain, were scaled by the 25th US Infantry and its defenders fled after a stubborn resistance, the fame of which has passed into history.

"...Crime is almost unknown and Arayat's municipal council has seriously considered the abolishment of the police force as an unnecessary expense. But as to the ghost—the town has always had a goblin of the variety known to the credulous as *duende* who must not be confused with the latest apparition. The local *duende* inhabits a certain ruin facing the plaza and is said to be of a rather gallant disposition, making his affection known to the lady of his choice by throwing stones at her house at the witching hour of midnight and sometimes by entering her window after she is sound asleep and rudely awakening her by grievously pinching her dainty toes.

"Out of the junction of the Rio Chico and Rio Grande near the place where Paymaster Howard was killed from ambush aboard a launch in December 1899, a party of homesteaders have been engaged for some time past in clearing the land and sinking a well. Rumor had been rife among the residents on lonely farms that the locality was haunted but it remained for the well-drillers to confirm it. Last week five men had sunk a shaft some eight feet deep near the banks of the Rio Chico when they exhumed a large quantity of pottery and plates as well as a wooden cross petrified by the action of time. While examining their find, they were startled by the cries of a woman who was cutting firewood nearby. Scrambling out of the pit to learn what had happened, they were confronted by a shadowy figure garbed in a habit of khaki color and fashioned much in the manner of that worn by the Capuchin friars. The apparition gazed at them fixedly with eyes that glowed like coals of fire and so frightened them that they abandoned their tools and fled in their conveyances to Arayat.

"Here they told their story to Col. Anselmo Alejandrino, a gallant soldier of revolutionary fame, who laughed at the ghost but nevertheless went to the site of the well to investigate. He saw no shadowy friar but did collect a number of unbroken pieces of pottery, some presumably ancient and others not so old which he has at his home at present. Wild reports of buried treasures are now prevalent and the ghost has been again reported as sighted wandering the river bank. The strange part of it all seems to be the unconventional action of the ghost in appearing in the light of day for it is not considered good form in spiritist circles for phenomena of this sort to exhibit themselves until the shadows of evening have fallen. Ancients among the natives state that there [was] a town formerly [existing] that was destroyed by an eruption of the Sinukuan and buried under its ashes, long before the Spanish conquest. Be it as it may, there is good snipe-shooting where the ghost walks and perhaps some of our local sportsmen may meet him. Two hours by banca from Arayat will bring them to the mysterious well."

Reading between the lines we see a promising pre-colonial archeological site that merits reinvestigation to give us more history than a mere ghost story.

* * *

Comments are welcome at ambeth@admu.edu.ph

The reality of displaced women and children

COMMENTARY

Maritess N. Reyes
Institute on Church and Social Issues

TO CELEBRATE women's month the producers of "The Vagina Monologues" gave permission for the play to be staged in universities to increase awareness of gender issues among the students. Two prestigious schools, Ateneo de Manila University and Miriam College, refused to allow the play to be staged in their campuses. This precipitated discussions not only within the academic community but in Philippine society at large. In a forum to celebrate women's month, women established in the fields of journalism, government, entertainment, economics, law and the academe delivered lines from "The Vagina Monologues" to highlight on gender issues and to give their support for the play.

Due to the large number of women who are vocal at expressing their views in media not only on gender issues but also on various issues that affect the country, it would seem that Filipino women have become empowered. However, a closer look at the background of these empowered women would show that they are educated and are well-off. Thus, they represent only a small segment of Philippine society. The majority of women in the country have yet to become empowered because they are unable to express their views concerning issues that affect them.

Women constitute half the country's population yet discussions on critical issues such as the war against terrorism in Mindanao seem not to take into consideration women's concerns. Military clashes with insurgent groups such as the Moro Islamic Liberation Front and Abu Sayyaf have inflicted hardships on civilians and oftentimes it is the women and children who are most affected because they are unable to protect and defend themselves. These women who are affected by the war against terrorism are unable to make their concerns heard because they do not have the capability and are preoccupied with surviving the hardships brought on by the war.

Military activities result in death and injuries not only among the combatants but also among civilians who are caught in the crossfire or become casualties of artillery exchanges or bombings near their homes. More importantly, military activities result in the displacement of civilians as they leave their communities which have become unsafe. There are no data available on the exact number of civilian deaths and casualties that resulted from military activities last year. However, the Department of Social Welfare and Development was able to gather data on the number of displaced persons who sought assistance in evacuation centers managed by the DSWD and non-government organizations. According to the DSWD data, the total number of persons displaced by conflict-related incidents from January to November 2001 in Mindanao is estimated to be between 135,000 and 150,000 and the majority of them are women and children.

Aside from losing their properties and means of livelihood, the displaced civilians suffer from psychological trauma and emotional stress due to the violence and abrupt changes that they have experienced within a short period. Furthermore, civilians displaced from their homes suffer in the evacuation centers due to poor living conditions, malnutrition and illness. Congestion, lack of food, poor sanitation and unavailability of medical facilities and supplies at evacuation centers have caused a rise in common illnesses such as diarrhea, dysentery and respiratory ailments which have resulted in deaths among evacuees. According to the DSWD, most of the reported number of deaths due to illness in evacuation centers are children below 2 years old.

Meanwhile, data from both the military and the insurgent rebels are unreliable since neither the military nor the insurgent rebels truthfully report their deaths and casualties to the public. The military estimates the MILF to have a strength of 8,000 and the Abu Sayyaf only 500. Even if all the insurgent rebels are wiped out, the damage to the rebels would be minimal compared with the number of civilians who were affected by military activities against the MILF and Abu Sayyaf. Thus, at the end of the day, when damage to life and property is counted, we will see that it is the civilians who suffered the most, civilians who are mostly women and children.

Indeed, there seems to be no other option for the government but to wage an all-out war against these insurgent groups. The government has tried negotiations, peace talks and third-party intervention to no avail. However, must civilians be also drawn into the conflict? Is there a way that could lessen the impact of military activities on civilians? They have already suffered considerably, constantly living in fear and feeling vulnerable because of the terrorist activities of the insurgent rebels. Must the civilians living in the affected areas be subjected to further suffering due to military activities to crush the rebels?

The impact on civilians of the government policy against terrorism is overshadowed by the concentrated efforts for the immediate solution to the terrorism problem. The gender dimension was not taken into consideration in approaching the problem. By lack of gender dimension, we mean that although both men and women have masculine and feminine qualities, it seems that the government's policy against terrorism only highlighted the "masculine" qualities.

Truly, "masculine" qualities of aggression and decisiveness are necessary to achieve a swift end to the terrorism problem. But the anti-terrorism policy of the government should also have a "feminine" component. This means that "feminine" qualities of caring for others, healing and nurturing should also be considered. The anti-terrorism policy should ensure that as much as possible no civilians are affected. Furthermore, should civilians be unavoidably affected and displaced, the government must ensure that food assistance is provided, health facilities are available, there is provision for medicines and medical supplies and the trauma of the war are mended such that violence and fear are replaced by a culture of peace.

THEY SAID

Prejudiced RP claims

"Needless to state, any delay in acting on those petitions will prejudice—if it has not already prejudiced—the Republic of the Philippines, particularly its efforts to recover ill-gotten wealth of the respondents deposited in Switzerland and elsewhere."

—Presidential Commission on Good Government Chair Haydee Yorac questioning Ombudsman Aniano Desierto's inaction on forfeiture petitions filed against Marcos cronies

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Rude awakening: increased charges

ALL of a sudden, and sans any announcement, an unholy alliance among government and private sector service providers seems to have been forged to increase their charges by almost 100 percent!

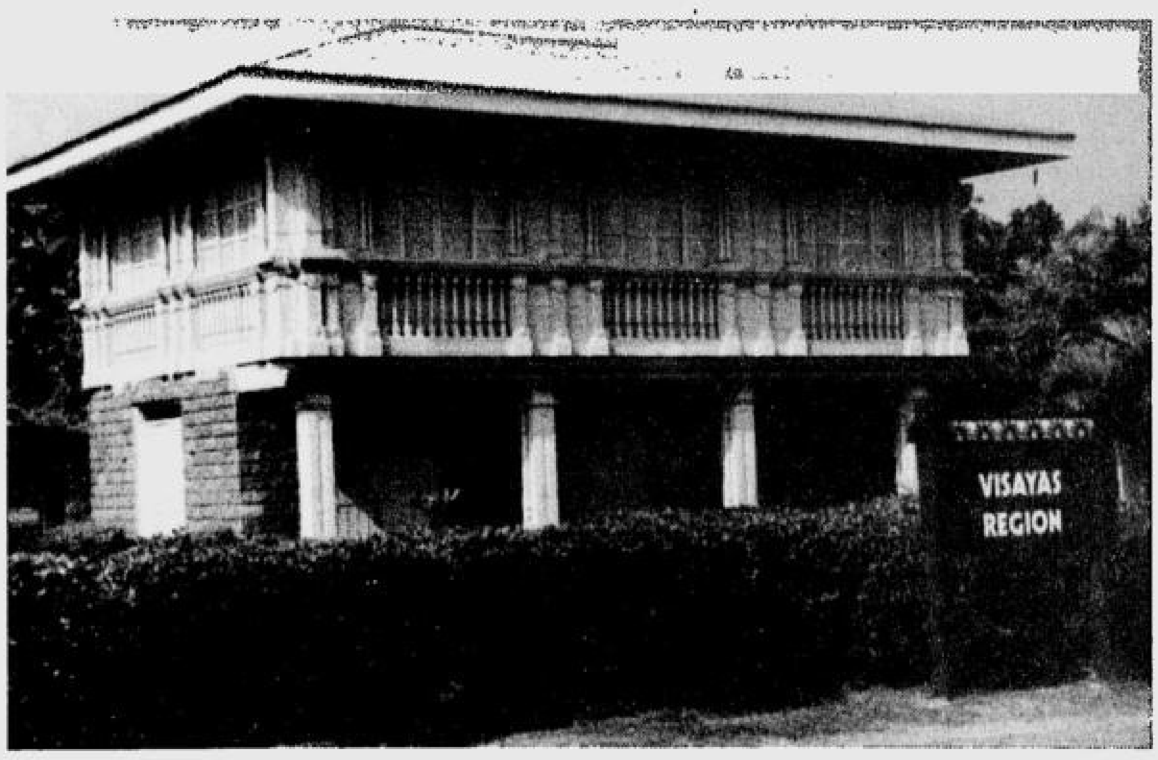
For instance, I registered my 1994 Toyota Corolla XL in January last year with the Land Transportation Office and I paid P820. This January, I was dumbfounded when for the same car I was charged P1,627, a 98.4 percent increase. The basic fee increased from P700 to P1,225, a 75 percent increase. Then there were two new items in the receipt—a P200 surcharge and a P132 "comp" fee, whatever that is! Is the government so in need of money that it will arbitrarily increase its fees by almost 100 percent? Check this out yourself.

Then there is the Manila Water Co. Inc. All of a sudden my Dec. 22 to Jan. 23, 2002 bill had a new item neatly tucked in the bill—a foreign currency differential adjustment, approximately 40 percent of the basic charge. What is the foreign currency differential adjustment for? Is water now imported? Why was this never discussed, consulted, publicized? What exactly does this mean?

Then we received a notice from our local assessor's office that our one and only lot has been reassessed at a rate more than 300 percent over that of last year while our 12-year-old house, which should have been depreciated by now, has been reassessed with an increase of 35 percent. One can just imagine the real estate tax that I will have to pay this year based on this increased assessments.

Is nobody protecting the consumers and the homeowners anymore? What is going on? What is happening to our country? Bills are piling up but the peso and the people's income have deteriorated. Help!

—DANILO P. OLIVARES,
1020 V.V. Soliven Bldg., Edsa,
San Juan, Metro Manila



NOEL I CAPARROS

Nayong Pilipino worth preserving

THIS is has reference to Neal H. Cruz's column, titled "Save Nayong Pilipino and other parks," on March 6, 2002.

We could not agree more with what he said. Just last Sunday, we visited the Nayong Pilipino to see what changes it has undergone since we were children. Sad to say, we found nothing really new except for the part where Filipino ethnology was exhibited. Having been there, however, despite a few disappointments, helped nurture our sense of nationalism.

Being young, we decided to take action in our own way. We thought of a few simple things we can do to help save the Nayong Pilipino from further deterioration. Writing this letter is our first step in urging concerned officials to do their job and protect and develop our national parks, particularly the Nayong Pilipino.

—JANISE CUTCHON and
GERALDINE TENORIO,
janitoot@yahoo.com

Ecumenism and inter-religious dialogue

I WISH to commend Dean Jorge Bocobo for his frank and honest attempt to awaken the ecumenical consciousness of the Catholic Church in the Philippines.

However, may I just offer a few clarifications regarding the theme he developed on Feb. 18, 2002 in his column, titled "Ecumenism for a flawed democracy."

The word "ecumenism," loosely employed to refer to relations among religions, should be limited to inter-Christian affairs only. Christian churches and communities refer to adherents of the Trinitarian faith in God the Father, the Son and the Holy Spirit. Thus, the ecumenical work of the Church does not extend to followers of Islam, Buddhism and Hinduism. Christian relations with these great world religions fall under the category of "inter-religious dialogue or affairs."

The Church in the Philippines is slowly but steadily discovering the path of ecumenical and inter-religious dialogue. The National Council of Churches in the Philippines-Office on Unity (Protestant) enjoys good working relationships with the Catholic Bishops' Conference of the Philippines' Commission on Ecumenical Affairs. A Muslim friend once remarked that they look upon the bishops in Mindanao as their "elder brothers" since in any issue that affects the lives of Mindanaoans, the bishops speak out in defense of the people, regardless of religious affiliation.

As regards religious activities in government buildings and military camps, I believe that not only the Catholics but also Protestants and others may be invited and may hold services there. In some of these places, chapels are used for ecumenical purposes or erected for the different denominations. Chaplains are also chosen from the different religious groups. At the Bilibid Prison, for example, various religious groups are represented. A mosque is being planned for construction at the Philippine Military Academy.

The column presents the Mindanao problem once again as religious in nature. Well-informed citizens are aware that it is not the real issue, but that religion can be easily exploited to avoid the needed confrontation with the real problems. Removing vestiges of religion from public venues reminds one of the attempts at secularizing society and pushing the religious dimension of human life toward the fringes, to irrelevance.

The Church slowly but steadily realizes her role in promoting respect for religious diversity, while proclaiming her faith in Jesus Christ, the Savior of the world. I remember the prayers for the nation offered last Feb. 25 at the Edsa Shrine, and the firm handgrip on each other by those who offered messages. There were the Catholic bishop, the Protestant ministers, the Hindu Maharaj, the Muslim, the Jew and the Buddhist nun. Religion offers a solution to our search for harmony and progress in the country.

—FR. RAMIL MARCOS,
director, Ministry of Ecumenical and Inter-Faith Affairs of the Archdiocese of Manila, San Carlos Seminary, Edsa-Guadalupe, Makati City

A lot of explaining to do

I WOULD like to respond to the letter of Transportation Secretary Pantaleon Alvarez regarding the full-page advertisement concerning his unexplained wealth. It is sad that Alvarez has the habit of evading the issues directed at him. It is obvious, the advertisement was not referring to just the income produced during his stint as transportation secretary. It was implying that his previous compensation during his many years at the Ninoy Aquino International Airport was smaller than his present compensation. For this reason, his total assets cannot be justified by the even higher compensation as transportation secretary. Thus, the issue is unexplained wealth.

I wish to point out that the ultimate issue is whether or not Alvarez is morally fit to be a member of the Macapagal Cabinet, considering that his appointment did not go through President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's usual screening committee. The basis is not only his behavior during his stint as transportation secretary-designate but his conduct in the past, both professional and personal.

Yes, he has a lot of explaining to do. Why does he not do just that instead of evading the issues and engaging in generalities?

—JOVINO G. LORENZO JR.,
president, MIA-NAIA Association of Service Operators,
Suite M-4, Prince Tower Condominium, Tordesillas corner Bautista Streets,
Salcedo Village, Makati City

Keep a vigilant eye on the ERC

THE POWER of choice. This is the promise of the EIRA, which the Department of Energy emphasized to us during public consultations on the implementing rules and regulations (IRR) drafted for the law. As far as I can recall, there was much excitement about the prospect, but much trepidation as well, on machinations that might thwart this great possibility. Concerns about manipulation through political influence on cross-ownership, the need to ensure that zero-rated VAT sales on power generation redound to the benefit of consumers and consumer vigilance, were strongly expressed not only in the workshop I attended, but in others held elsewhere in the country.

I believe the general sentiment drawn from all those public consultations was the need to fulfill that power of choice, especially now that most consumers are feeling the pinch of the global economic slowdown.

It bears watching how the Energy Regulatory Commission (ERC) will conduct itself in this new era in our electricity industry. It is the ERC that will have the biggest influence in fulfilling this promise. Under the new IRR, it should pave the way for open market retailing of power, it must enforce the rules on cross ownership and unbundling of rates, and it has the duty to assess the conduct of industry players.

Given this great responsibility, I call on the press to place a spotlight on the ERC, as part of its public service to promote consumer awareness and incite vigilance. This is a most crucial time for all of us. All the moves that happen now will determine if the EIRA will change our lives for the better or for the worse.

—MARIA CARMELA ANGELES, 59 Acacia St., MRV Sta. Lucia, Pasig City

Do we need a Department of Housing and Urban Development?

THE MOVE in Congress to form an agency to be called the Department of Housing and Urban Development has not yet gotten the attention it should from the public. The new department will merge existing urban housing projects and their functions will be under the umbrella of the proposed DHUD.

What worries me is what will happen to the billions in Pag-IBIG funds. Will it suffer the same fate as the Social Security Service funds?

The Pag-IBIG fund is the people's money and the current management, in my view, has managed it well enough. I hope the moves will be transparent so that the public may know, especially the Pag-IBIG members.

—RENO VERDE,
renov03@lhpc.net

A fitting home for Bonifacio monument

I WOULD like to contribute my two cents' worth on the proposal of Mayor Rey Malonzo to relocate the Bonifacio monument in Caloocan City, by saying: Finally! It's about time!

Since I started living in Valenzuela more than 25 years ago, almost every day I have witnessed the gradual decay, neglect and lack of respect for this historical edifice resulting from poor planning, lack of vision and commercialization. Nobody in his right mind would venture to see and admire this monument since it is right smack in the middle of one of the worst traffic situations in the metropolis.

Guillermo Tolentino's masterpiece should be put in a place where there is ample clean and green space for people to stroll around. While Luneta does fit this description, there is a better location where the monument can be the focal point and at the same time enhance the locality's value and significance. I am talking about the rotunda located at the center of Fort Bonifacio, which is currently being developed by the Fort Bonifacio Development Corp. and the Bases Conversion Development Authority. Being previously connected with the BCDA, I am a bit familiar with Fort Bonifacio's master plan and its design philosophy. The site is actually the focal point of the entire development that has Bonifacio Avenue as its main thoroughfare. The development also gives attention to providing open and green spaces as breathing points for the people living and working in the community. These spaces are further supplemented by sculptural edifices, some of which have already been erected.

The lack of control over commercial development that is present at the monument's site will never happen in Fort Bonifacio since it has strict development guidelines.

I hope our government officials will give some consideration to this proposal. Whatever their decision may be, the Bonifacio monument more than deserves a permanent and befitting home.

—GERRY P. ABIOG,
archgerry@pacific.net.ph

Sharon's concessions could split Israeli coalition

NEWS ANALYSIS

Hazel Ward

JERUSALEM—Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon's two major concessions to the Palestinians in as many days appear to indicate an easing of his traditionally hard-line position, but analysts are divided about the reasons behind the move.

On Sunday, Sharon said he would let Yasser Arafat leave the West Bank city of Ramallah where he had been confined by Israeli troops for more than three months, saying the Palestinian leader had met Israeli demands to arrest those responsible for the assassination of an Israeli minister last October.

He had already caused a surprise on Friday by saying he was ready to drop his demand for seven days of complete calm in the occupied territories before holding ceasefire talks with the Palestinians.

The moves come ahead of a fresh visit to the region by US Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni, expected Thursday, and despite a pair of devastating attacks in Israel by Palestinian militants on Saturday.

The decision no longer to insist on a week of calm was well received by the Israeli public, with 55 percent approving the decision, an opinion poll published on Monday by a local paper indicated.

Ehud Sprinzak, dean of the Lauder School of Government, Policy and Diplomacy at the Inter-disciplinary Center in Herzliya lauded Sharon's changes of stance.

"I think both are wise decisions. Every day the war continues it causes huge damage to us. So, the decision to give up the seven days is a good and brave decision which is in the interests of Israel," he said.

But Sprinzak added: "Sharon still hasn't taken the hardest decision yet: what does he propose (the Palestinians) politically? From a political point of view, he has to offer them something attractive, because if he doesn't, why should they stop?"

And he warned that Sharon's carefully constructed coalition government, built around his own right-wing Likud and left-leaning Labour, was under threat.

"The extreme right wants to leave, which means he will be more dependent on the Labour party, which will have more power. On the other hand, he will face more pressure from within the Likud, and maybe the government will fall," Sprinzak said.

Zeev Maoz, head of the School of Government and Policy at Tel Aviv University, agreed.

"Every decision has a price and the price of this decision appears to be that (Sharon) loses the right bloc in the government which will make him even more dependent on the Labour Party," he said.

"But of course, it is also in his interest to get rid of the image of being the aggressor," Maoz added.

But Sharon's overtures were snubbed by the Palestinians, who dismissed them out of hand because the violence on the ground was still continuing.

"All these declarations are worthless: they mean nothing," Palestinian information minister Yasser Abed Rabbo told journalists on Monday.

"Sharon is continuing his war on the ground against the Palestinians," he said. "He is playing a smart game, he only wants to deceive."

Palestinian cabinet secretary general Ahmad Abdel Rahman said the limited freedom of movement granted by Israel to Arafat, who at the moment can still not leave the Palestinian territories, is "not enough."

"The most important is to lift the siege imposed on the Palestinian people and stop the dirty war launched against our people," he said.

Ali Jarbawi, professor of political science at Beir Zeit University in the West Bank, said Sharon was only acting tactically.

"It is not a courageous act by Sharon at all. He might be under pressure from the Americans but it is more of a tactical position than a strategic one.

"What he said about the seven days shows he wanted to please the US while at the same time keep firing at the Palestinians. That's what he meant when he said 'we're going to negotiate under fire' which is what he's doing," he said.

Letting Arafat out of Ramallah was a cynical move, designed to pave the way for an Israeli incursion into the West Bank city, he said.

"It is the last 'haven' for the Palestinians and Sharon wants Arafat out so he can come in. The day after Arafat leaves Ramallah, Sharon will be in there straight away," he said. ***AFP***

Facts about the mythical .45

WITH THE COMING of the American special forces to Zamboanga and Basilan to train our soldiers in the fight against terrorist groups like the Abu Sayyaf, the old myths about the .45 caliber handgun being invented to stop the bolo-swinging *juramentado* in his tracks has reemerged. As a gun hobbyist and student of firearm history, I would like to set the record right and correct a misconception that has persisted for a hundred years.

When we say .45, we are actually referring to two different handgun calibers, the .45 Colt and the .45 ACP (automatic cartridge pistol). The former is a revolver round while the latter is a pistol round. But some revolvers made by Colt, Smith & Wesson and Ruger are available in .45 ACP.

The .45 Colt cartridge was developed in 1873. In 1875 the US Army adopted both the round and the Colt Single Action Army revolver and used it as its service ammunition and sidearm. (The Colt SAA is the very same cowboy gun that John Wayne and Clint Eastwood used in their Westerns.)

The .45 Colt fired a heavy lead bullet, and a center body hit was certain to put a man down for the count. But it was a beast to master because of its loud report and hard recoil. After a few years in service, the US military decided in 1892, to scrap the .45 Colt in favor of the lighter .38 Long Colt, which was chambered in double-action revolvers made by Colt and Smith & Wesson, the two biggest firearms manufacturers in the United States then. Compared to the muscular 255-grain bullet weight of the .45 Colt, the .38 Colt was a puny 150-grainer.

When the US cavalry started its Moro pacification campaign in 1901, it found, to its consternation and eternal regret, that the .38 couldn't be relied on to stop a *juramentado* charge every time. That the suicide warrior had worked himself into a frenzy before mounting an attack, his mind hopped up on *betel* nut, *buyo* leaf and lye, and his body bound tightly in strips of white cloth which had the practical effect of minimizing tissue damage and bleeding from bullet wounds, only served to highlight the ineffectiveness of the .38. For even after absorbing six bullets, the howling little man tended to stay on his feet, long enough to allow him to get up close and personal with the white devil to wield the blade.

A few more of these unpleasant encounters and the US Army brass led by Gen. John "Black Jack" Pershing finally got the idea and wrote home, asking for a reissue of the .45 Colt which had been in mothballs for a decade. Higher headquarters acquiesced and presumably, the problem of unstoppable amok charges was long resolved by the time the Moro campaign officially ended in 1909.

In 1911, the US Army adopted the Colt Model 1911 as its service firearm.

The semi-automatic handgun fired the .45 ACP that was developed some years earlier by John Moses Browning, the acknowledged firearm genius of his century who designed the 1911 as well. Certainly the experience of the US military with the .38 Colt in the Spanish-American war, the Philippine "insurrection" and the pacification of the fanatical Moros in the south, which exposed its insufficient stopping power for combat use, led to the decision to drop it in favor of the battle-proven bullet of the .45 caliber. Ironically it was the same Pershing of the Moro campaign fame who first used the new pistol in actual combat test when he chased Pancho Villa, the Mexican revolutionary, across northern Mexico in 1916 in what came to be known as Pershing's Punitive Expedition.

So was the .45 Colt invented to kill Filipinos? No, it wasn't. It predated the Philippine campaign by more than 20 years. And the .45 ACP, chambered in the .45 Auto that we are so familiar with, was pressed into the US military service only when the fracas in the south was practically over. It should be noted that the .45 Auto remained as the US Army service pistol for 75 years until it was replaced in 1985 by the Italian-made Berretta 92 F in 9MM. But that's another story.

—LONG PEREZ, 18 MLQ Ext.,
Antipolo City

Five branches of government

RIGHT now, there are five branches of government: the executive, legislative, judiciary, civil society and religious (Jaime Cardinal Sin).

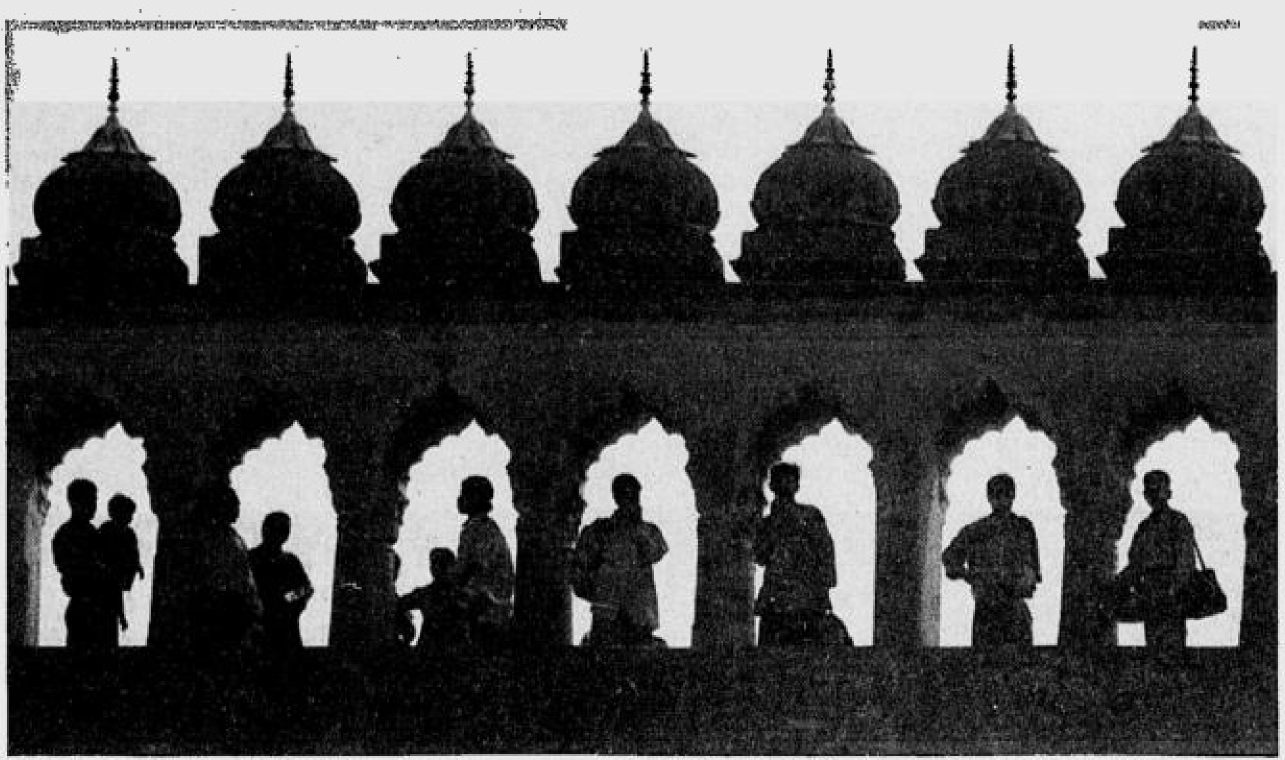
Lately, all government decisions are approved by the last two branches of the government (after consultation and prayer meeting *kuno*).

It's about time Cardinal Sin and company pay their taxes. I will gladly support every effort of Congress to pass a law taxing these religious groups.

—ANGEL BULAUITAN,
bulauitan@
sympatico.ca

The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**



VISITORS to Lucknow's 1784 Bara Imambara, or tomb of a Shi'ite Muslim holy man, take in the view from the roof of the adjacent mosque structure in the capital of India's Uttar Pradesh state March 10. The site where a mosque was destroyed in 1992 in Ayodhya, another town in Uttar Pradesh, is currently under dispute between Hindus and Muslims and was the source of communal violence in Gujurat state last week where over 700 people were killed.

REUTERS

Russia, China to US: Explain nuclear strategy

PARIS—World leaders demanded answers from Washington on Monday about reports of a US military policy review that pinpoints several Asian and Middle Eastern nations as potential nuclear targets.

The Los Angeles Times said it had obtained a classified Pentagon report, which stated that nuclear strategy would be rejigged to target China, Iran, Iraq, Libya, North Korea, Russia and Syria, in the case of threat.

Top US officials, including Secretary of State Colin Powell and National Security Adviser Condoleezza Rice, tried to allay fears at the weekend, saying the report merely listed options at the disposal of US authorities.

And on Monday, US Vice President Dick Cheney said in London at the start of a 12-nation tour that the United States "on a day-to-day basis does not target nuclear weapons on any nation," describing reports as "a bit over the top."

But Moscow was first in line to lash out at the administration of US President George W. Bush, demanding clarification about the policy review and warning that the reports "cannot leave Moscow indifferent."

"We hope . . . there will be a statement at a higher level offering clarification and reassuring the international community," Foreign Minister Igor Ivanov was quoted as saying by the Interfax news agency.

If the media reports turned out to be true, it would provoke "regret and concern . . . not only in Russia but among the entire international community," Ivanov added.

Foreign ministry spokesperson Alexander Yakovenko warned that the reports "cannot leave Moscow indifferent."

Former prime minister Yevgeny Primakov, now the president of the Russian chamber of commerce and industry, was less diplomatic, saying he was "revolted."

"This goes beyond what we have previously known," he said, according to the RIA-Novosti news agency.

The Pentagon report, presented to Congress in January, detailed three scenarios in which weapons could be used: against targets able to withstand non-nuclear attacks; in retaliation for a nuclear, biological or chemical weapons attack; and "in the event of surprising military developments."

It identifies new scenarios in which US nuclear weapons could be used, like "an Iraqi attack on Israel or its neighbors, or a North Korean attack on South Korea, or a military confrontation over the Taiwan Strait." ***AFP***

India holy town becomes armed camp

UNITED NATIONS—Women around the world are choosing to have fewer children, confounding long-held predictions of a global population of 10 billion by the end of this century, a UN study said.

Demographers from around the world met at the United Nations on Monday to consider lowering that estimate to between 8 billion and 9 billion.

That is not just a mathematical exercise.

The implications are "momentous," the UN Population Division report said.

Governments use population projections to plan just about everything, from social security to school budgets, said Joseph Chamie, the agency's director.

For decades, experts assumed the global population, now about 6 billion, would reach a staggering 10 billion by the end of this century. But the past few decades have witnessed dramatic declines in birthrates in the large, developing nations that were driving the growth:

There are 74 countries in what the United Nations calls the intermediate-level fertility group, where women have between 2.1 and 5 children each.

This group accounts for about 43 percent of the world's population and includes Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico and the Philippines.

The study suggests those nations are heading toward a fertility rate of 1.85 children for each woman by 2050, a significant decrease that in India alone would represent 85 million fewer people. ***Reuters***

US, Afghan forces seize key terrain, take prisoners

BAGRAM AIRBASE, Afghanistan—US-backed Afghan forces have seized key terrain and taken Taliban and al-Qaida fighters prisoner in an onslaught aimed at concluding the Operation Anaconda offensive, a spokesperson for coalition forces said Tuesday.

"Our Afghan allies continue to aggressively attack from the north and the west and yesterday seized key terrain in the objective area," US Maj. Bryan Hilferty told a briefing here

"In the last 24 hours we have more detainees," he said without specifying how many or who the prisoners were.

He said Afghan troops were using US air support and were being "very aggressive" in their "operations against the extremists" in the Arma mountains above the Shahi Kot valley in the eastern province of Paktia.

As he spoke, reports from the Paktia capital Gardez said that Afghan troops sent by the Kabul administration last week were moving into the Arma mountains in preparation for a major assault against Taliban and al-Qaida fighters holed up there.

Hilferty refused to comment on the reports but said "Afghan allies" were mobilizing in the region.

"I don't know about those reports. I do know that we have American advisers with our Afghan allies and they're moving aggressively into the area," he said, without specifying whether the Afghans were those sent by Kabul's interim defense ministry.

The Afghan Islamic Press (AIP) reported late Monday that some 100 of the 1,000 soldiers sent by the defense ministry had left Gardez in tanks and military vehicles for a US base to plan an attack.

In Kabul defense ministry official Mira Jan said US-led forces plus Afghan troops sent by the ministry had captured two strategic heights dominating the Shahi Kot valley.

He said American and allied forces had seized one strategic height while forces loyal to the defense ministry were occupying a second. ***AFP***

Profession:
Teacher

Previous Job
·Itawes National Agricultural & Technical School
·Cagayan Teacher's College

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Present Job:

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Branch Manager
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And so we decided to pursue it. We both resigned from our teaching jobs, inspite of the protestations of my friends, ("*na magiging isang ahente na lang ako.*").

Within 7 weeks as an insurance agent, I earned what took me 8 1/2 years to earn as a teacher!

My wife and I now work as a team, firm believers in the power of two. We create our own plans. Our own strategies. It's like having your own business without the cash investment involved.

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0047, Series of 2002

20 Palestinians killed in Israeli assaults

GAZA—Israeli forces staged a ferocious assault in the Gaza Strip and tanks stormed into the West Bank town of Ramallah on Tuesday, killing at least 20 Palestinians and setting back peace hopes ahead of a new US truce mission.

Palestinian officials said a security man had been wounded in the chest when Israeli forces fired into the compound housing President Yasser Arafat's offices in Ramallah, just a day after Israel said it would lift a blockade on his movements.

The Israeli Army said it was not aware of an attack on the compound, as fierce gun battles raged through the town.

In the Gaza Strip, at least 18 Palestinians were killed.

Palestinian hospital officials said Israeli forces had killed two Palestinians in the town of El-Bireh adjacent to Ramallah, the main Palestinian political and commercial center in the West Bank.

One Israeli was also killed and a second wounded when a gunman opened fire just inside the West Bank, the Army said.

In Ramallah's main square, angry Palestinians had strung up the body of an alleged collaborator with the Israelis. The young man, blood staining his bare chest, dangled upside down by his feet from a metal pylon.

US Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni is due to return to the region this week to try to enforce a truce in more than 17 months of fighting that has escalated to the brink of war after by far the bloodiest fortnight of the conflict.

The Israeli Army said the latest offensive, by land, sea and air, was aimed at smashing "bases of terror" used by Palestinian gunmen and bombers to mount attacks on Israelis.

"We can no longer rely on a stand-off situation where we simply await their next attack," a senior Army officer said.

The Palestinians accused Israeli Prime Minister Ariel Sharon of going all-out to smash their uprising against Israeli occupation and of using Zinni's visit as a smokescreen.

"If (Israeli Prime Minister Ariel) Sharon thinks there is one Palestinian who will kneel or surrender he is wrong," said Palestinian Preventive Security chief Mohammed Dahlan.

Shooting erupted as the troops entered the edges of the al-Ama'ri refugee camp in Ramallah. There was no word of casualties, although heavy machinegun fire narrowly missed journalists filming from the top of a hotel.

Tanks and troops backed by helicopter gunships battled into Jabalya refugee camp near Gaza City late on Monday, sparking fighting that left hospitals barely able to cope.

People ran screaming for cover down the camp's many alleys and ambulance sirens wailed as the tanks surged forward.

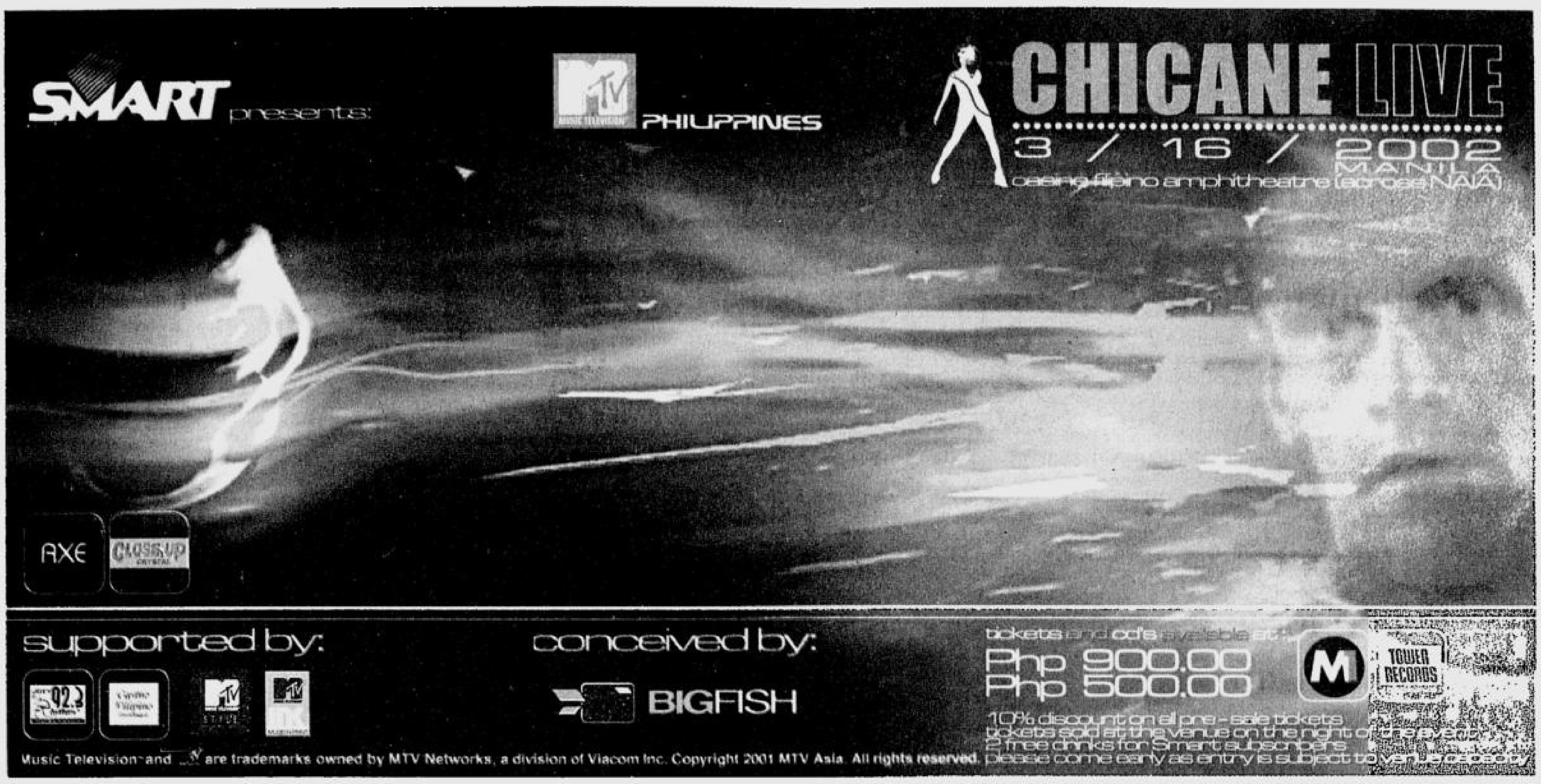
Hospital sources said 17 people were killed and 50 injured in the densely populated camp of about 90,000 people before the tanks withdrew about four hours later.

Witnesses said the soldiers blew up a foundry and two homes, one the house of a man who attacked a Tel Aviv restaurant last week, killing three people before he was shot dead himself.

An Israeli military source said the foundry had been used by the Hamas militant group to make short-range Qassam rockets.

In the central Gaza Strip, the Israeli Navy struck a Palestinian naval headquarter and other security targets near Deir al-Balah town. Palestinian security sources said one man died and six others were hurt by rockets fired by gunboats.

Reuters



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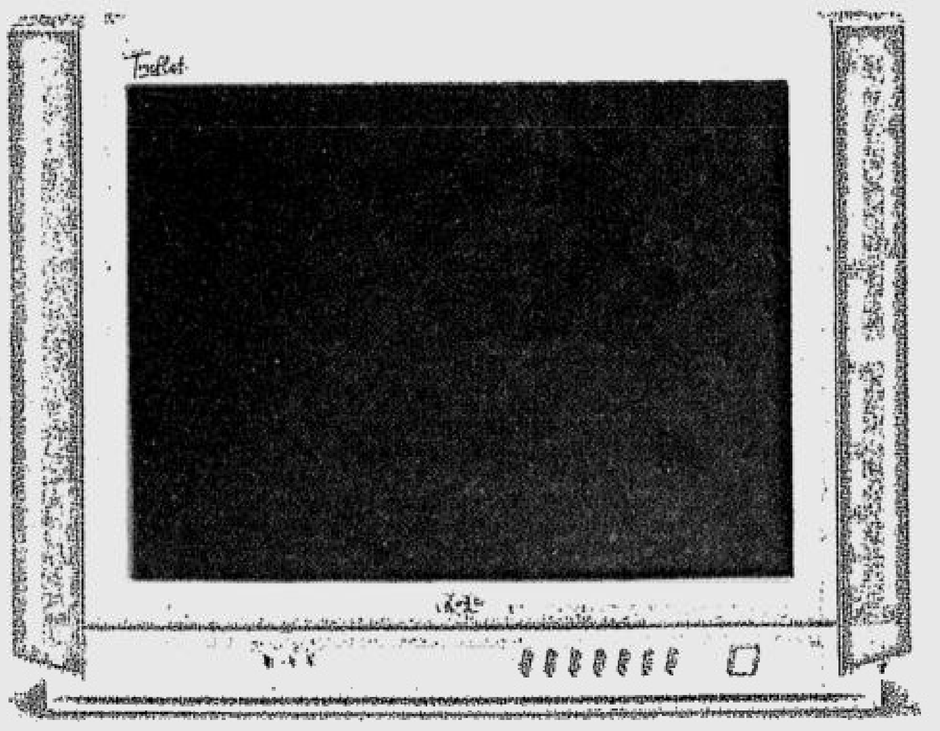

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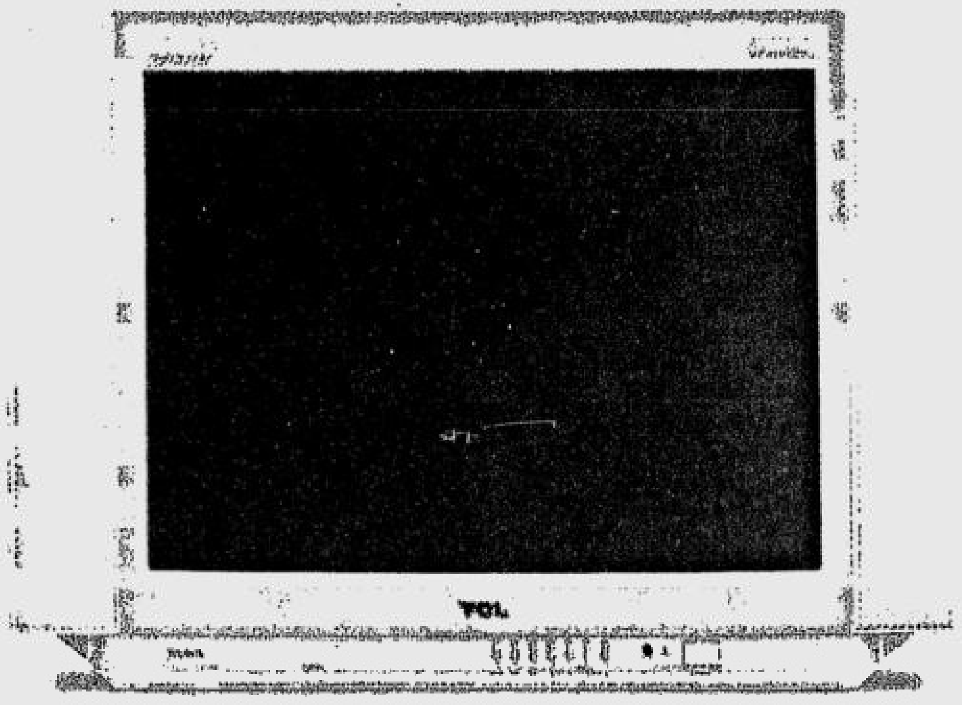

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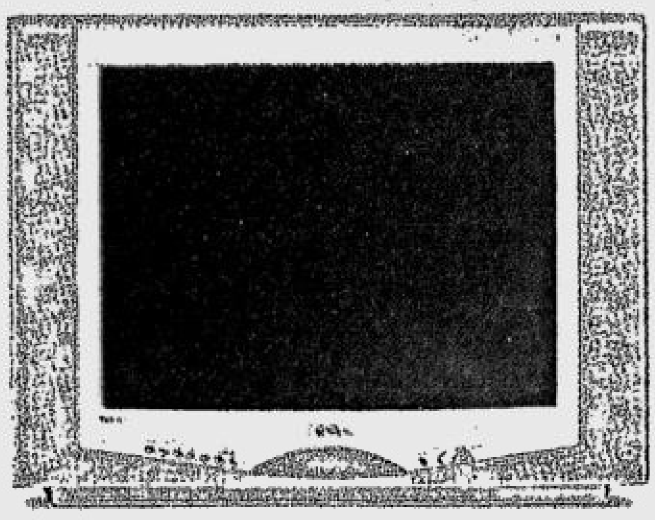

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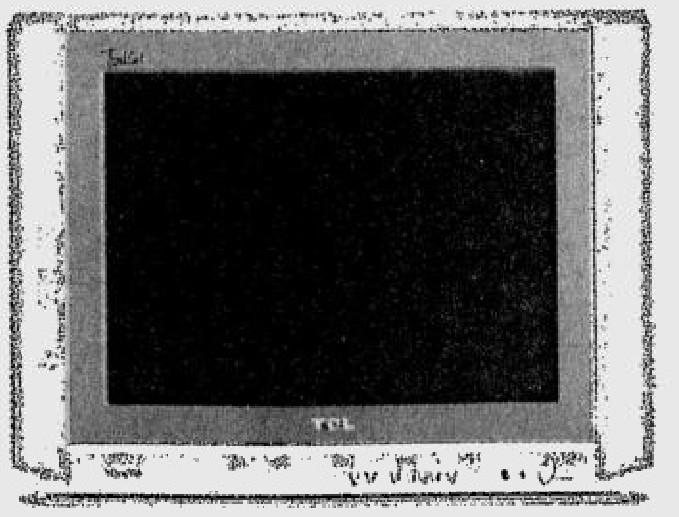

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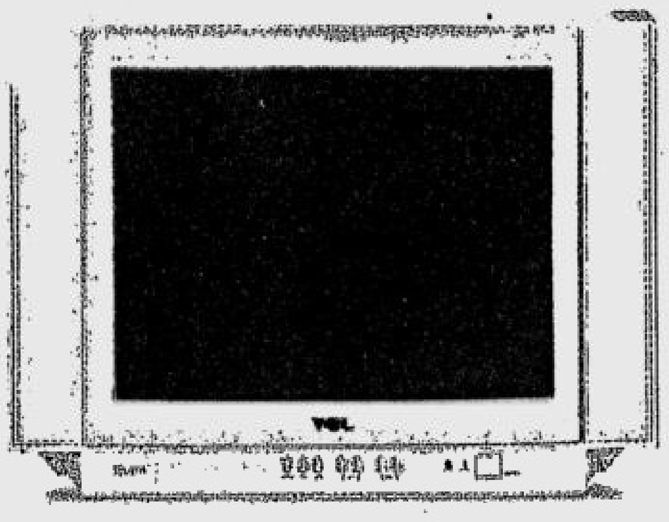

2116 Excellent Vision

No population explosion coming after all, says UN

UNITED NATIONS—Women around the world are choosing to have fewer children, confounding long-held predictions of a global population of 10 billion by the end of this century, a UN study said.

Demographers from around the world met at the United Nations on Monday to consider lowering that estimate to between 8 billion and 9 billion.

That is not just a mathematical exercise.

The implications are "momentous," the UN Population Division report said. Governments use population projections to plan just about everything, from social security to school budgets, said Joseph Chamie, the agency's director.

For decades, experts assumed the global population, now about 6 billion, would reach a staggering 10 billion by the end of this century. But the past few decades have witnessed dramatic declines in birthrates in the large, developing nations that were driving the growth.

There are 74 countries in what the United Nations calls the intermediate-level fertility group, where women have between 2.1 and 5 children each.

This group accounts for about 43 percent of the world's population and includes Bangladesh, Brazil, Egypt, India, Indonesia, Iran, Mexico and the Philippines.

The study suggests those nations are heading toward a fertility rate of 1.85 children for each woman by 2050, a significant decrease that in India alone would represent 85 million fewer people.

"That's groundbreaking because anything below two children, like we have in Europe, the population starts to decline," Chamie said.

If that new scenario is correct, the world population will ultimately begin to shrink, though not in this century.

Since 1965, world fertility has declined from 5 to 2.7 births per woman, the study said.

There are many factors for the declining birthrates, not the least of which is the use of contraceptives. Now that women have the means to limit the size of their families, they are choosing to do so, Chamie said.

"For centuries people did not have this control, this freedom to choose the timing and the number of children they wanted," he said.

Also, many people in developing nations are moving to cities, negating the need for large families to work the farm. Changing attitudes about the role of women, declines in infant mortality and better reproductive health care also play a role.

Suriname is at the low end of the intermediate-level nations with a birthrate of 2.2 children per woman, while Guatemala and Sudan are at the high end with 4.9.

By comparison, Europe is at 1.34 children per woman and Japan 1.33. China, the most populous nation, has a birthrate of 1.8 children per woman.

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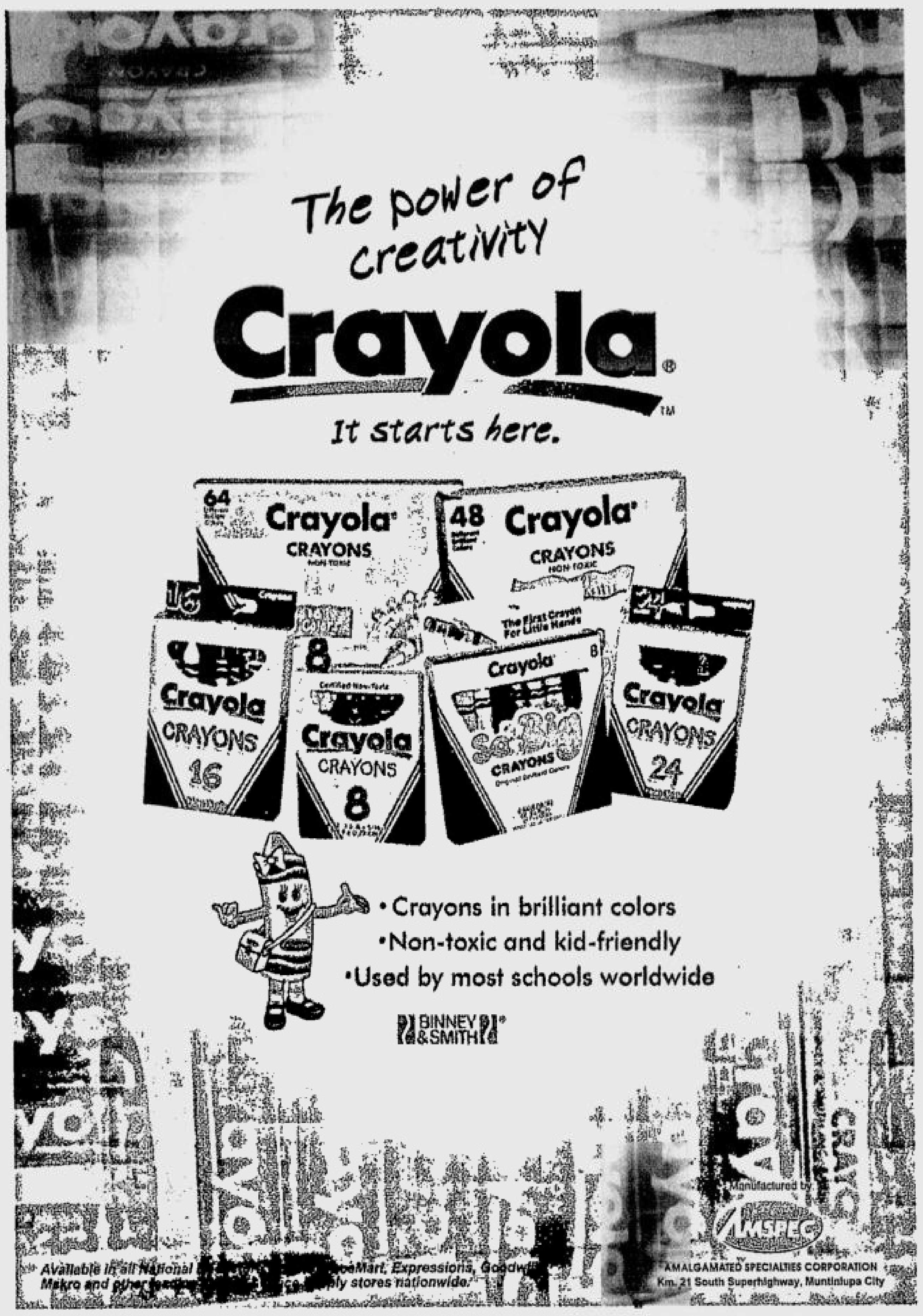
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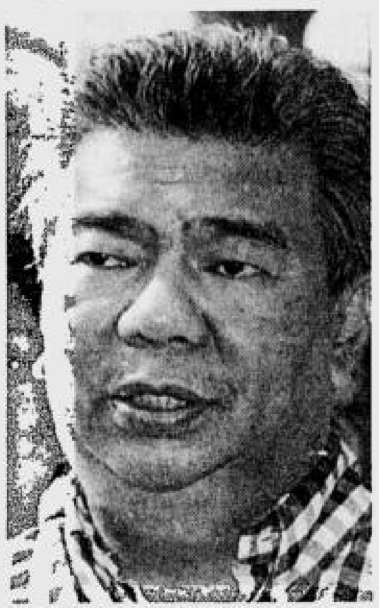
Drilon issues apology to children's parents


DRILON

SENATE President Franklin Drilon issued a public apology yesterday as scores of schoolchildren were treated for suspected food poisoning after drinking milk under a program he financed.

"I would like to apologize to the parents," Drilon said over national television.

Drilon, the third highest elected official of the country, said only 40 children in Minalin town north of Manila have been treated for symptoms of food poisoning after taking part in the nutrition program he and his late wife launched in 1996.

The education department in the region gave a higher figure of 179 affected children from among more than 1,000 students in three schools.

The milk cartons are emblazoned with the name of "Senate President Franklin M. Drilon."

Health department official Eric Tayag told radio station dzRH that milk samples were being analyzed to determine whether the milk had caused the food poisoning. The results should be out in a week, he added.

Regional education department official Vilma Labrador told the station that the feeding program has since been suspended pending an investigation.

"It's unfortunate that this thing happened. I am conducting an investigation. I have summoned the (education department) officials and the (milk suppliers) this afternoon to explain to me how this thing happened," Drilon said.

He said the education department administered the program, in which milk is provided to malnourished children in public schools in the remotest villages in the Philippines.

Drilon stressed that the program has been a success, and that in many schools, "the absentee rate goes down toward zero because the schoolchildren from very poor families, they look forward to the feeding program as an incentive for attending classes."

Four in 10 Filipinos live on less than 75 US cents a day, official figures show.

This poverty makes many families targets of politicians during campaign periods or of incumbent elected officials who maintain a high profile for future elections.

It is not uncommon for many officials, especially those who are seeking victories in future elections, to have their names emblazoned on almost every project imaginable—from sacks of rice, bags of groceries, billboards of ongoing road construction to packs of milk.

During campaigns, the poor get visited by politicians more often and are made to queue for distribution of bags of goodies by a politician wooing votes.

Politicians had earned the monicker "*trapo*" for resorting to publicity stunts and for taking every opportunity to woo support from voters.

With a report from AFP

JESSICA Bondoc, 8, is being comforted by her mother at a Pampanga hospital after she fell ill from milk donated by Senate President Drilon.
VAL HANDUMON

Poor storage blamed for students' poisoning

CITY OF SAN FERNANDO—Officials of the Department of Education in Pampanga said improper storage of the chocolate milk distributed to elementary schoolchildren in the province might have caused the food poisoning of at least 170 pupils in Minalin town on Monday.

DepEd officials stressed that the milk served to the schoolchildren was not spoiled and its expiry date was not tampered with contrary to claims made by some parents of the children.

Butch Pacia, a nurse of the Pampanga schools division office, quoted their office's head doctor, Victor Valencia, as saying that the milk could have been poorly stored in the school buildings in flood-prone Minalin.

She said since last year, the Pampanga schools division office has been distributing the chocolate milk, donated by Senate President Franklin Drilon, to 32 school districts in the province as part of the DepEd's feeding program to eradicate malnutrition.

But Pacia said this was the first time that the pupils fell ill after drinking the milk.

Pacia said all the elementary school pupils who suffered from abdominal pains, drowsiness, weakness and dizziness had been discharged from the Jose B. Lingad Memorial Regional Hospital at 6 p.m. Monday.

The children had reported to their classes Tuesday, she added.

Provincial administrator Benalfre Galang said they sent a team of government doctors and nurses to Minalin to monitor the health of the pupils who drank the milk.

Pacia said the chocolate milk shipment arrived at the Pampanga schools division office on March 4 and the milk packs were distributed to schools in the town of Minalin, Porac and the City of San Fernando.

An official of the Alaska Milk Corp. (AMC), the supplier of the chocolate milk drink, said the firm has sent a team of quality assurance personnel to this city and Minalin town to look into the incident.

In a statement, Santiago Polido, AMC corporate affairs director, declared the milk fit for consumption.

Polido quoted a quality assurance team from Alaska Milk as saying that the milk was of good quality.

School Milk
RACHEL Perez, 11, holds up one of the donated packs of milk believed to be the culprit in Monday's mass poisoning in a Minalin, Pampanga school.
VAL HANDUMON

"None of the inspected products were found to be defective," Polido said in a statement.

He said aside from field tests, team members also conducted random tests in front of teachers and school officials.

"We reviewed all aspects of our involvement and we found that there was nothing wrong with the products delivered under the program," said the statement.

"From production to storage to handling to the time they were delivered to DECS, the products were in good order," said Polido.

The milk packs were delivered to the DECS on Feb. 22, 2002.

He said Alaska Milk is still testing other samples to "determine beyond doubt the integrity of its products."

"All AMC milk products undergo a rigorous process anchored on strict quality control procedures," Polido said in an earlier statement. ***Bert Basa, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

8 Army soldiers charged with murder in Bulacan

SAN ILDEFONSO, Bulacan—Eight Army soldiers were charged with homicide and attempted homicide for killing a man in a shootout in Barangay Bohol na Mangga here on Saturday.

Charged before the municipal trial court here were Army Sgt. Modesto Budol, Army Corporals Wilson Pader and Edilberto Silvano; Private First Class Edwin Regori, Randy Verdila and Erwin Bassig. They are members of the Army's 56th Infantry Battalion detachment here and in Barangay Biak na Bato in San Miguel town.

Two other soldiers, whose identities were not immediately known, were included in the charges.

Rodante Marcial, a suspected illegal quarry operator in San Miguel and Doña Remedios Trinidad towns, filed the complaint for the killing of his aide, Arnold Sanchez, and the wounding of his driver, Robert Hizon.

Police reports showed that Sanchez, Hizon and Marcial were aboard Marcial's Mitsubishi Pajero early Saturday when they ignored the warning of the Army soldiers to stop in the detachment's checkpoint.

Marcial said in his affidavit that they mistook the Army soldiers for a group of New People's Army rebels waiting to ambush them.

He said his men doubted the legitimacy of the Army's checkpoint as there was no checkpoint warning sign in the area.

But 2nd Lt. Harry Ballaga, head of the Charlie Company of the 56th IB, said the military checkpoint has a sign and his men, all wearing Army uniforms, use wide range flashlights during their night patrol to warn passing vehicles.

He said when Marcial's vehicle ignored their warning and took another route, the soldiers did not immediately fire but waited for the group at another checkpoint.

Ballaga claimed that after the group ignored the soldiers' warning for the second time, the soldiers were forced to fire at the vehicle. He said Marcial's group was armed and engaged them in a shootout.

Chief Insp. Aurelio Ducay, San Ildefonso police chief, said his men recovered empty bullet shells for M-16 Armalite rifles inside Marcial's vehicle. ***Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk***

ENGINE TROUBLE

Light plane carrying live fish crashes in Palawan

PUERTO PRINCESA CITY—A Cherokee-type six-wing light plane crashed on the shores of San Vicente, Palawan yesterday.

Its pilot was unhurt but two of its passengers were missing.

Two people, who have yet to be identified, were declared missing, according to a report of the Agence France Presse.

Police in San Vicente are searching the area but have not found anything so far, it added.

Reports from the San Vicente police said the light plane had an engine trouble at around 10 a.m. near Barangay Caruray.

The plane maneuvered but crash-landed on the beach.

The pilot, identified as Ernie Fernando, 30, and a resident of 41-A Electrical Road, Pasay City, is in safe condition.

The plane, bearing registry number RPC-1379, is owned by GF Super Air Services.

It reportedly came from Manila and was on its way to Barangay Apurawan in Aborlan to ferry boxes of live fish when it suffered engine trouble.

The right tail and the left wing of the airplane were destroyed.

Air Transportation Office officials led by accident investigation officer Capt. Efren Rocamora immediately arrived yesterday to investigate the cause of the crash.

According to Ed Jaucolan, ATO Puerto Princesa senior airways communicator, ATO officials were not able to monitor the accident immediately because they did not have a communication link in San Vicente.

The Cherokee plane can accommodate six to seven persons and is usually used to ferry live fish from different Palawan towns like Busuanga, Aborlan, Taytay and El Nido.

These areas have shorter airstrips that could only accommodate light aircraft. ***Jofelle P. Tesorio, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau with a report from AFP***

Chavit confident he'll be cleared of graft by Ombudsman

VIGAN CITY—If deposed President Joseph Estrada has given up hope in the country's judicial process, his erstwhile friend, former Ilocos Sur Gov. Luis "Chavit" Singson, is banking on it to prove his innocence on the graft and plunder charges filed against him by his critics.

In his counter-affidavit filed Friday before the Ombudsman, Singson denied all charges hurled at him by the Save Ilocos Sur Alliance (Sisa).

"There is no truth to the allegations in the instant complaint. The instant complaint, as well as the other complaints filed against me and against people close to me, are baseless and malicious with no purpose other than to destroy my credibility as witness in the plunder case against deposed President Joseph Estrada," Singson said in his four-page counter-affidavit.

Among Singson's co-accused are Ilocos Sur Gov. Deogracias Victor Savellano, former general service officer and provincial planning and development officer Dr. Enrie Mendoza, provincial administrator Ma. Victoria Cu, provincial budget officer Erlita Arce, and provincial treasurer Antonio Gundran.

The Office of the Ombudsman, on Feb. 6, found the three graft charges against Singson and the Ilocos Sur officials "sufficient in form and substance" and asked them to file their counter-affidavits.

"The malicious allegations in the complaint are general, sweeping and without factual basis. More importantly, since the complaints have no personal knowledge of the acts alleged in the complaint, their allegations in the complaint are clearly and undoubtedly hearsay," Singson said.

"The complainants' allegations are solely supported by some findings of a COA report for 2000, which were taken out of context and without any other supporting documents. Moreover, the complainants conveniently omitted the fact that in the COA report . . . there was no recommendation for filing of criminal charges against any of the respondents," Singson said.

Sisa officials are unfazed, saying they would still rest their case on the COA findings.

"The COA report is our basis of filing our complaints. If this is baseless, then the COA is useless. Unless the COA comes out wide a position that their findings are fabricated as claimed by Chavit, we shall take it as truthful and worthy as evidence," Sisa president Nestor Segismundo told the INQUIRER.

The Ombudsman's order covered the response of Singson and his co-accused to the graft charges filed by Sisa on Nov. 21 and 26 and Dec. 6 last year.

The Ombudsman has yet to issue an order on the fourth charge, a plunder case, filed on Dec. 13 against Singson and three Ilocos Sur officials.

The plunder charge involved the "alleged rampant, continuous and irresponsible" release of public funds involving P899 million used in various projects of the provincial government.

On Nov. 21 last year, Sisa filed graft charges against Singson and five Ilocos Sur officials in connection with the alleged "ghost" purchase of a backhoe loader worth P9.5 million in 2000.

On Nov. 26, the group filed graft charges against Singson for the supposed purchase by the Ilocos Sur government of an allegedly overpriced parcel of land for P26 million in 1998.

On Dec. 6, Sisa filed technical malversation charges against Singson involving P30 million from tobacco excise taxes. ***Leoncio Balbin Jr., PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Cops find bodies of 4 victims of 'salvaging'

By Villamor Visaya Jr.
PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

SAN PABLO, Isabela—Police on Sunday found the bodies of four men who were suspected to be victims of summary executions in Barangay Ballacayu here.

Supt. Nelson Nario, Isabela police director, identified the victims as Sulmar Vergara, 39, of Solana, Cagayan; Augusto Basa, 29, of Abulug, Cagayan; Carlito Nicolas, 29, of Sorsogon; and Jessie Bayaua, 19, of Tabuk, Kalinga. Their bodies bore bullet wounds from 9mm pistols and .45-cal. guns.

Police said the victims were last seen alive on Saturday night during a drinking session in Solana, Cagayan.

The victims' relatives claimed the bodies on Monday.

Dickson Cardenas, a relative of the victims and one of their drinking mates, said the four men left for Tuguegarao City at 9 p.m. Saturday aboard a maroon tricycle.

Cardenas said he did not join the group because he was already drunk at that time.

He said that was the last time he saw the four men.

Police said residents of Barangay Ballacayu here found the bodies at 6:30 a.m. Sunday. The area where the bodies were dumped is about 30 kilometers from Tuguegarao City.

The victims' tricycle was found in nearby Barangay Camasi in Peñablanca, Cagayan.

CAPTURED REB'S CONFESSION

Politicians backing NPA

DUPAX DEL SUR, Nueva Vizcaya—A captured member of the New People's Army here has tagged local officials in Nueva Ecija as allegedly supporting communist guerrillas by providing cash, food and high-powered firearms to the rebels.

The rebel, who requested anonymity for security reasons, said among those politicians were a Nueva Ecija congressman and a mayor.

"We used to visit them (in their houses) and in those visits, they would give us either money or guns, or both," the rebel told reporters here.

He, however, said he did not know the amount given to the rebels. Their team leader or group commander, who managed their finances, knew the exact amounts, he said.

He cited one instance when the mayor personally handed over an M16 Armalite rifle to his group of 10 fully armed rebels.

Donations were also given by some town councilors and barangay officials, he claimed.

Lt. Col. Felix Calimag, commanding officer of the Army's 54th Infantry Battalion based here, said aside from politicians, wealthy families have been supporting the rebels.

The support may either be voluntary or were exacted from them in the form of revolutionary taxes, Calimag said.

The rebel was among the three members of the NPA's Venerando Villacillo Front who were captured by government soldiers during operations at Barangay Puncan in Carranglan town in late February and early this month.

Government soldiers also recovered nine mortar bombs and ammunition for grenade launchers.

The captured rebel admitted that because of limited resources, they were forced to extort from motorists using the 50-kilometer stretch of the national road near the Nueva Vizcaya-Nueva Ecija border.

Before the operations, they would seek refuge from sympathetic residents whose houses are located near the national highway, he said.

He also said his group was responsible for the assault on the town hall and the police station in Sta. Fe, Nueva Vizcaya on Dec. 23, 2000.

They also burned three air-conditioned buses on Nov. 28 1999 in Carranglan after the bus companies rejected the rebels' demand for revolutionary taxes, he said.

In San Luis, Agusan del Sur, four alleged members of the NPA operating in the hinterlands of this town recently surrendered to the Army' 36th Infantry Battalion.

The four, who claimed to be members of the Alimaong Militia ng Bayan of the NPA, were identified as a certain Fernando Matibulig alias Yanko/Ayunan, Armando Adorno alias Dambo, Nenita Napungahan alias Wegen and Danny Amado. They brought with them two Armalite and two Garand rifles.

But Bagani Dagohoy Bonifacio, spokesperson of the NPA's Fr. Frank Navarro Command based in Northern Mindanao, denied that the four were NPA members.

He said the surrenderers could be Alimaongs or warriors of the tribe, who wanted to avail of the government's Balik Baril Program by bringing with them the firearms of the tribe.

"The Alimaongs are fully-armed warriors of the tribe but they are not the Militia ng Bayan of the NPA," Bonifacio said. ***Melvin Gascon, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau with a report by Kristina Cassion, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Death squad ends brief vacation, kills 3

DIGOS CITY—Just when everyone thought the killings had stopped, suspected members of the vigilante group Digos Death Squad (DDS) gunned down three suspected drug pushers in a span of two days.

Even as a suspect in one of the killings disowned his link to the vigilante group, most residents expressed belief that the increasing activity of pushers led to the resurgence of the DDS.

More than 20 suspected pushers have been killed since suspected DDS members, who patterned their style from the Davao Death Squad in Davao City, started operating here and in major areas of Davao del Sur last year.

The latest to get killed by suspected DDS members was Sonny Anito, who was gunned down near the Digos Market on Sunday morning.

Chief Insp. Noel Saniel, city police chief, said Anito was about to board a tricycle when two motorcycle-riding men appeared and fired at him along Luna Street around 9 a.m.

Anito, a convicted drug pusher who was out on probation on theft charges, died on the spot.

Two hours before Anito was shot to death, another suspected pusher was killed.

But Faustino Villegas, a barangay police of Barangay San Miguel, who claimed responsibility for the death of Reynante Cansancio, denied he has links with the vigilante group.

Villegas said he decided to kill Cansancio, also of Barangay San Miguel, after the Cansancio repeatedly ignored his plea to stop peddling shabu.

During interrogation at the police headquarters after he surrendered, Villegas said Cansancio, 25, even taught his high school son to sell shabu.

On Saturday morning, Bernardo Solaña was killed while he was standing along Molave Street here.

Police said witnesses saw six motorcycle-riding men approach the victim.

One of the suspects, who were all wearing camouflage uniforms, pulled out a .45 cal. pistol and shot Solaña four times in the head and body.

Saniel said Solaña was a known "drug personality." ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

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Seminar: Speaker / Topics

MR. VICENTE LAZA (Philippines)
"Project Financing Solutions: The LGU Bond"
MR. GRAHAM DAINES (Singapore)
"Tall Buildings in Steel -Are They Still Safe?"
MR. CHEE KOK WENG (Singapore)
"Design & Construction of Affordable Housing in Singapore)
DR. KEN YEANG (Malaysia)
"Ecological Design of Large Buildings and Sites"
MR. ANDREW MOORE (Singapore)
"How an International Practice Offers a Global Perspective on Hospitality Design"
MR. KEITH MAY (New Zealand)
"Reflecbve Foils & It's Benefits for Insulation in Tropical Countries"
MR. PATRICK SHEEN (Hong-Kong)
"New Generation Machine Room-less Elevator"

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WORLDBEX 2002 ON-STAGE PRODUCT DEMONSTRATION SCHEDULE

DATE	TIME	COMPANY	TITLE
13 March 2002	1:00 - 2:00 PM	James Hardie	Hardiplank: Setting the Trend in U.S. Style Housing
	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Hocheng Philippines	
	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Efco Phils. Ltd.	Hand-E Form Demo
	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Nuovo Legno	Alpi Wood Veneer
14 March 2002	10:00 - 11:00 AM	CIM Technologies, Inc.	Building Design-Land Development
	11:00 - 12:00 NN	World Wide Web	
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Deepe Marketing	Blum
	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Multi-Mach Int'l.	Bonthor Sink
	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Global Brands Co. Inc.	Vulcakote
15 March 2002	10:00 - 11:00 AM	Nouvo Legno	Alpi Wood Veneer
	11:00 - 12:00 NN	Gomeco	Kitchen Solution for the New Mellinium
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	3G Networks Tech.	Infographics System
	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Union Cement	Mix and Fix
	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Global Brands Co. Inc.	Powermix
	4:00 - 5:00 PM	Decopro	Finishing Touch By Decopro
16 March 2002	10:00 - 11:00 AM	World Wide Web	
	11:00 - 12:00 NN	Benesco Construction Supply	Ariste 25 System Office & Fitting
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	Copylandia	
	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Union Cement	Mix and Fix
	3:00 - 4:00 PM	Orion Industries	Hot & Cold Water Pipe
	4:00 - 5:00 PM	HCG North America	
17 March 2002	10:00 - 11:00 AM	Atlanta Industries, Inc.	Atlanta's Unending Innovations
	1:00 - 2:00 PM	HCG North America	
	2:00 - 3:00 PM	Hunter Douglas Phil. Inc.	Hunter Douglas Window Fashions

SCHEDULE OF CONFERENCE SESSIONS

TIME		SESSION	SPEAKER
Day 1 March 14, 2002	8:00 - 10:00	On Site Registration	
	10:00 - 10:30	Opening Rites	
	10:30 - 12:00	Session 1 Topic: How an International Practice Offers aTruly Global Perspective on Hospitality Design	Mr. Andrew Moore Hirsh/Bedner Associates Pte. Ltd (Singapore)
	12:00 - 1:00	LUNCH	
	1:00 - 2:30	Session 2 Topic: Project Financing Solutions: The LGU Bond	Mr. Vicente Laza LGU Guaranteed Corporation (Philippines)
	2:30 - 2:45	P.M. BREAK	
	2:45 - 4:15	Session 3 Topic: Design & Construction of Affordable Housing in Singapore	Mr. Chee Kok Weng CESMA Int'l Pte. Ltd. (Singapore)
Day 2 March 15, 2002	9:00 - 10:30	Session 4 Topic: Tall Buildings in Steel - Are They Still Safe?	Mr. Graham Daines Yolles Consulting (Singapore)
	10:30 - 10:45	A.M. BREAK	
	10:45 - 12:15	Session 5 Topic: Reflective Foils & Its Benefits for Insulation in Tropical Countries	Mr. Keith May ThermaKraft Industries (NZ) Ltd (New Zealand)
	12:15 - 1:00	LUNCH	
	1:00 - 2:30	Session 6 Topic: Ecological Design of Large Buildings & Sites	Dr. Ken Yeang T. R. Hamzah & Yeang Sdn. Bhd. (Malaysia)
	2:30 - 3:45	P.M. BREAK	
	2:45 - 3:45	Session 7 Topic: New Generation Machine Room-Less Elevator	Mr. Patrick Sheen OTIS Elevator Company (Hong Kong)
	3:45 - 4:45	Closing Ceremony Awarding of Plaques / Certificate	

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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern Luzon, Visayas and Eastern Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy to cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Partly Cloudy	Hi31° Lo 22°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	Hi 23° Lo 13°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 20°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	Hi 32° Lo 20°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 22°
Tagaytay	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 19°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	Hi 30° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 25°
Cebu	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 30° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 29° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Partly Cloudy	Hi 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Partly Cloudy	Hi 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	Hi 31° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/03/13/02

ROUNDUP

Successful drive

TACLOBAN CITY—The Department of Health has hit a 95.95 percent success rate in its anti-polio campaign in Eastern Visayas. The DOH data showed that 549,563 of 572,754 children, aged five years old and below, from the region's six provinces, had received the oral anti-polio vaccine since the campaign started on Feb. 2. Anabelle de Veyra, nurse at the Department of Health's Epidemiology and Surveillance Unit based in Barangay Candahug, Palo, Leyte, said they were targeting 572,754 children for the second round of "Balik Patak, Kontra Polio" campaign "to ensure that the virus is eradicated."

Cynthia A. Borgueta, PDI Visayas Bureau

Ex-convict shot dead

TAGBILARAN CITY—Policemen belonging to the anti-robbery Task Force Habas shot dead an ex-convict linked to several holdups in Bohol. Police identified the fatality as Protacio Burda, a native of Capiz City who rented a house in Barangay Poblacion, Pilar town. Supt. Sancho Bernales, Bohol police director, said Burda had just emerged from his house about 6 p.m. on March 5 when he tried to shoot it out with the arresting officers.

Chito A. Fuentes, PDI Visayas Bureau

Murder raps vs NPA

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—Police authorities filed murder charges against a New People's Army leader and his followers for the death of a private contractor in Malapatan, Sarangani province on Feb. 26. Senior Supt. Cesar Daquil, Sarangani police chief, said the charges were filed on Tuesday against Commander Yoyong of the NPA's Front 71 and six others in connection with the death of engineer Dennis Galvez. Galvez and three other persons were on their way home after inspecting a project when Commander Yoyong and his men attacked them in Sitio Tibo, Barangay Tuyan. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Cop kills fellow cop

GENERAL SANTOS CITY—A neophyte policeman is in hot water after shooting to death a fellow law enforcer outside a beer joint here on Saturday evening. PO1 Mario Baluran, assigned to the Special Action Force in Barangay Labangal here, was detained at the Pendatun Police Precinct after killing SPO2 Roberto Alasagas of the Sarangani Police Command. Alasagas was declared dead on arrival at a local hospital. Baluran told reporters that he left the beer joint after figuring in a verbal tussle with Alasagas, but the victim followed him and without warning, slapped him twice in the face. Baluran said he tried to stop Alasagas from attacking by firing a warning shot, but the victim instead drew his gun. The suspect was arrested while fleeing the crime scene. *Aquiles Z. Zonio, PDI Mindanao Bureau*

Festival of fathers

DARAGA, Albay—About 1,000 fathers here led by Mayor Gerry Jaucian and Vice Mayor Carlito Baylon will gather on Sunday for a Lenten recollection and in celebration of the town's Festival of Fathers. So far, 800 fathers have already signified intention to attend, according to Fr. Weng Tomas, parish priest. Tomas said the activity seeks to stress the role of fathers in strengthening the family and is in preparation for the visit of the Pope in Manila next year for the Family Day.

Tony S. Macasinag, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Agri fund allotted

CALAPAN CITY—President Macapagal-Arroyo has allocated P1 million for each town in Oriental Mindoro for irrigation, credit, fertilizer and farm-to-market roads to further improve the province. Secretary Marita Magpili-Jimenez of the Office of the Presidential Adviser for Official Development Assistance Absorption, who was here recently, said that P150,000 has already been given to local officials to be used only as mobilization fund. A written report of its use should first be submitted before the Department of Budget and Management releases the balance.

Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Rabies awareness

CALAPAN CITY—In observance of the Rabies Awareness Month, the Oriental Mindoro government has set a massive anti-rabies vaccination drive through the Office of the Provincial Veterinarian headed by Dr. Grimaldo C. Catapang. Some 100 patients will be initially given anti-rabies vaccination in every town. Program coordinator Ireneo P. Lantican said the number would increase later. Catapang explained that the anti-rabies vaccination will be prioritized in summer because it is during this time that the level of dog rabies cases rise.

Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

PUP in Laguna

SAN PEDRO, Laguna—The Polytechnic University of the Philippines will now hold open university-type classes for about 100 students in this town, Mayor Felicisimo A. Vierneza said. He instructed all offices to help conduct a survey to get information on students' preferences. He added that students applying for enrollment in the university would undergo competitive examinations to trim down their number to a hundred.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

KIDNAPPING FEARED

Cops step up search for Chinoy trader

By Kathy I. Navarro and Jhunnex Napallacan
PDI Visayas Bureau

CEBU CITY—The police and the National Bureau of Investigation have stepped up the search for a 21-year-old Chinese-Filipino businessman who was reported missing since March 9.

Chief Supt. Avelino Razon Jr., Police Regional Office director for Central Visayas, said he has ordered all his units in Cebu to help locate John Douglas Yu Sy, who was last seen on Saturday when he went to the North Reclamation Area for a business errand.

NBI Director Romulo Manapsal said he has directed NBI agent Reynan Oliva to gather information on Sy's disappearance.

"We are initiating our own efforts as to the reported incident and we are coordinating with the police and National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) in the investigation," Manapsal said.

Sy is the eldest grandson in the Yu clan, owners of Producer Feeds, a leading brand of animal feeds in the Visayas and Mindanao. His mother is the eldest in the Yu family, and most of their relatives reside in Barangay Mabolo.

A report at the Criminal Investigation and Detection Group showed that Sy was last seen at 1:30 p.m. on Saturday when he left for the North Reclamation Area on board his dark blue Mitsubishi Galant Super Saloon on an errand.

When he could not be reached through his cellular phone, his family went to the CIDG Sunday dawn to seek assistance.

Early Sunday morning, the CIDG found Sy's car abandoned on V. Gullas Extension in Pier 2.

PNP crime laboratory specialists were examining the car to determine if other people forcibly entered it, said Jonathan Miano, chief of the Regional Intelligence and Investigation Division (RIID) 7.

He said some documents inside the car were disarranged, "which means that someone wanted to search for something in the car."

CIDG Chief Edwin Diocos said two witnesses claimed that there was a commotion inside Sy's car before he disappeared.

But he added that his men were still verifying the information especially because the witnesses were hesitant to talk to authorities.

Razon said Sy's case would remain as a missing person report unless there would be evidence to indicate that he was kidnapped.

As of yesterday afternoon, the family had not received any call for a ransom demand.

"We are also looking into the angle that Sy has many debts. There's a possibility that someone hid or abducted him so as to collect payment," Razon said.

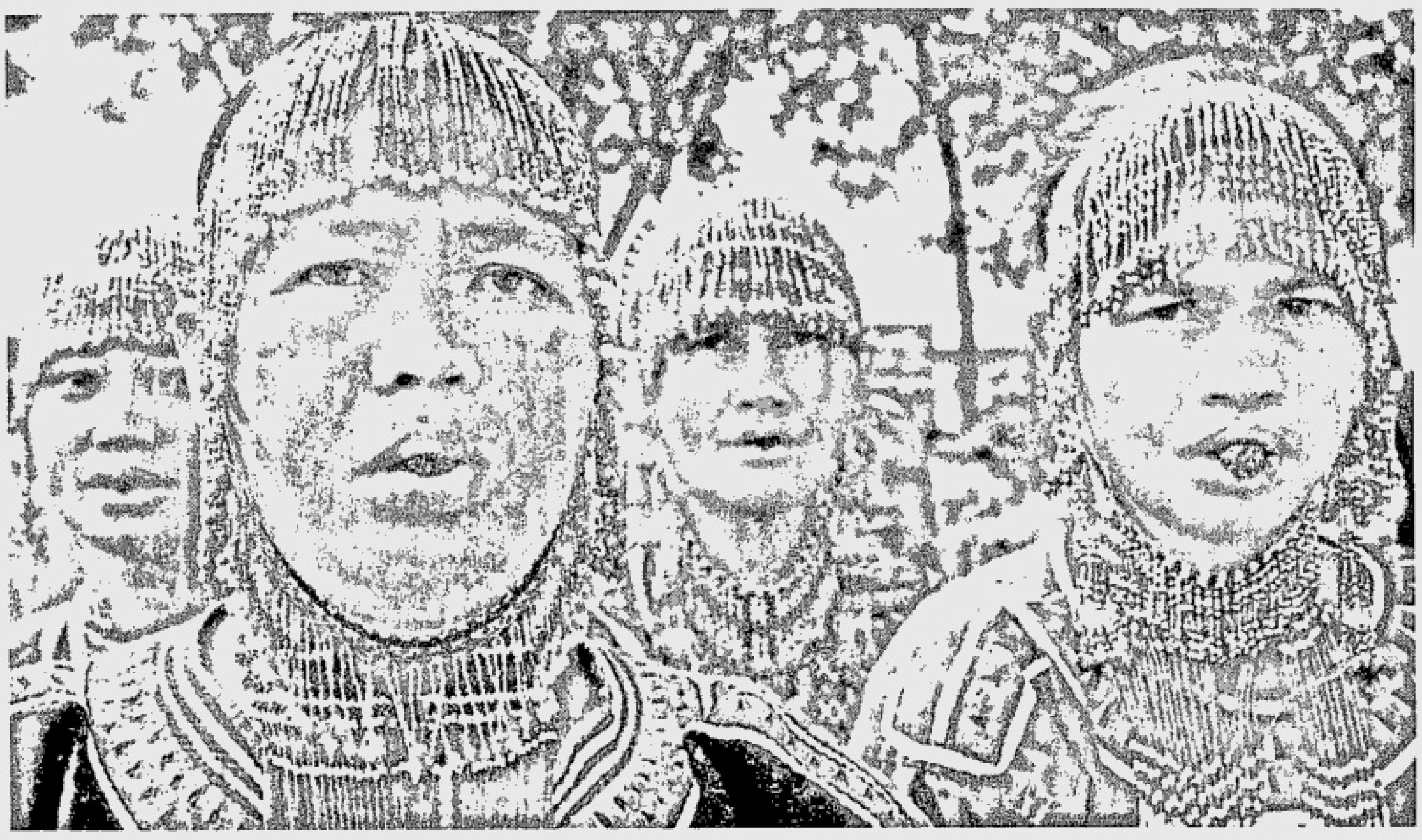
But Johnny Sy yesterday denied that his son had incurred debts. He, however, declined to answer anymore questions from the media.

Margarita Sy, the victim's wife, said her husband had no known enemies. She described him as "responsible husband and father" to their one-year-old child.

The Sy family appealed to the public and the media to help them in looking for Douglas John.

National Anti-Kidnapping Task Force (Naktaf) 7 Chief Jose Jorge Corpuz said Sy was last seen wearing a yellow shirt, short pants, and rubber shoes.

"We are appealing to the public for any information. If you have, please call 166, 2532557, or 0917-345-1415," he said.



EDWIN BACASMAS

WELCOMING PARTY
Women members of the Tigwahonon tribe of Bukidnon wear their native attire and chew on betel nuts as they await the arrival of President Macapagal last March 11.

Smuggled rice seen source of doleouts

BACOLOD CITY—Gov. Joseph Marañon has asked President Macapagal-Arroyo to allow the distribution of 32,900 sacks of forfeited rice to the less privileged in Negros Occidental.

In a letter to the President dated March 8, the governor said the P21-million worth of smuggled rice would help the province prepare for the ill effects of the El Niño phenomenon, which is expected to hit the country this summer.

"In view of the imminent forfeiture of the goods in favor of the government, we, the government leaders of Negros Occidental, reiterate our united petition embodied in Resolution No.0806, series of 2001 that the forfeited bags of rice be distributed to our less privileged constituents," he said.

The MV Murphy docked at the privately owned Bacolod Real Estate Development Corp. (Bredco) on Dec. 15 where the 32,900 bags were then surreptitiously unloaded.

The vessel then left the port without securing a clearance from the Philippine Coast Guard.

It was intercepted by teams of the Coast Guard, the Army and the Air Force in the territorial waters of Guimaras on Dec. 16. The vessel was brought back to the Bredco Port where the vessel remains confiscated.

Marañon said in his letter to Ms Macapagal that the consignee of the shipment failed to appear before the customs hearing officer Domingo Leguiap to prove that the shipment was covered by necessary documents. ***Carla P. Gomez, PDI Visayas Bureau***

HIGHER COSTS, FEWER STUDENTS

Tuition hike seen to bring enrollment down

By Joey A. Gabieta
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The increase in tuition being asked for by some private tertiary schools in Eastern Visayas is projected to result in yet another decline in the number of enrollees for next school year.

Ciriaco Salino, regional coordinator for tuition increase of the Commission on Higher Education (CHEd), said that every time a school increases its tuition, a significant number of its students are forced to quit school.

"We have noted that every time that a school increases its tuition, the number of students (enrolled in it) dropped dramatically," he said.

Last year, the CHEd estimated that the number of graduates in Eastern Visayas declined by almost 5 percent, partly due to the tuition increase. Eight of the 47 private colleges in the region increased their tuition last year, ranging from 20 to 10 percent.

With another round of tuition increases in the offing coupled with the unstable economic condition in the country, the CHEd has projected a 5- to 10-percent drop in the number of enrollees for the next school year.

Eastern Visayas used to have an average of 15,000 graduates every school year. This number dropped to 9,000 in 1998, the year the country started to feel the effects of the 1997 Asian economic crisis. The number has been steadily dropping since then.

"We just hope that these schools will not increase their tuition just for the heck of it. We would like to appeal to them that if they can still afford not to increase their charges and their operation will not be affected, they should temporarily set (tuition increase) aside," he said.

However, at least six private colleges in the region have already informed the CHEd of their intention to increase tuition by next school year. These are the St. Joseph College in Maasin City, Southern Leyte; the Samar College in Catbalogan, Samar; the St. Mary's College in Borongan, Eastern Samar; the AMA-Tacloban and the Systems Technology Institute (STI) both in this city and in Ormoc City.

Salino said these private colleges have yet to inform the CHEd of the exact amount of the tuition increase they are asking for. "But we expect that they will increase their tuition by at least 10 percent," he said.

Salino predicted that the number of colleges that will apply for tuition increases would increase before April 1, the last day of the filing of applications for tuition increases.

Salino said private schools could increase their tuition as long as they meet the needed requirements, which only consist of a certification that students and parents had been consulted and another certification stating the purpose of the increase.

The usual reasons that schools cite when they seek tuition increases are the demand of their teaching and non-teaching personnel for salary increases, the need to improve facilities and equipment, and to recover investments.

Batangas movement to clean up Tingga Falls

BATANGAS CITY—After an article about the dying Tingga Falls here was published by the INQUIRER last Thursday, a movement to revive the once-famed falls, also known as the city's Pagsanjan Falls, started to clean it up.

The movement also revealed plans to revive the springs and water wells in the Iniwi river that ends at the Tingga falls, as well as improve the riverside, and plant trees in the area.

The movement, led by city environment and natural resources officer Philip Baroja, is composed of officials and residents of barangay Tingga, provincial boy scouts, women folk and the youth.

"The Tingga Falls is not yet dead. It could be saved," Baroja said, "But in doing this, we should be prepared for a long haul. Here, we believe that the journey to revive the falls takes just one step, and we are taking it."

Baroja, together with the boy scouts, has even gone down to the falls area and filmed the falls.

"In the video footages that we have taken, we discovered a spring near the foot of the falls that is still alive. If we could clean up the upper portion of the Iniwi river and trace the sources of the wastes that pollute it, we can bring back the glory of Tingga Falls," the city official said.

The movement is now planning to trace the source of pollution on March 31.

"If only someone started to campaign for the Tingga Falls' protection ten years ago, we wouldn't have a hard time now cleaning up the accumulated wastes in the falls," Baroja said, "But it's not too late now."

Boy Scouts of the Philippines officer Alfredo de Torres, who enlisted the help of the boy scouts in the cleanup, has been widening and clearing the path to the falls.

Lola Maura, 86, a resident of Tingga, said the stone steps leading down to the falls used to have 195 steps, not only 169. ***Mei Magsino, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau***

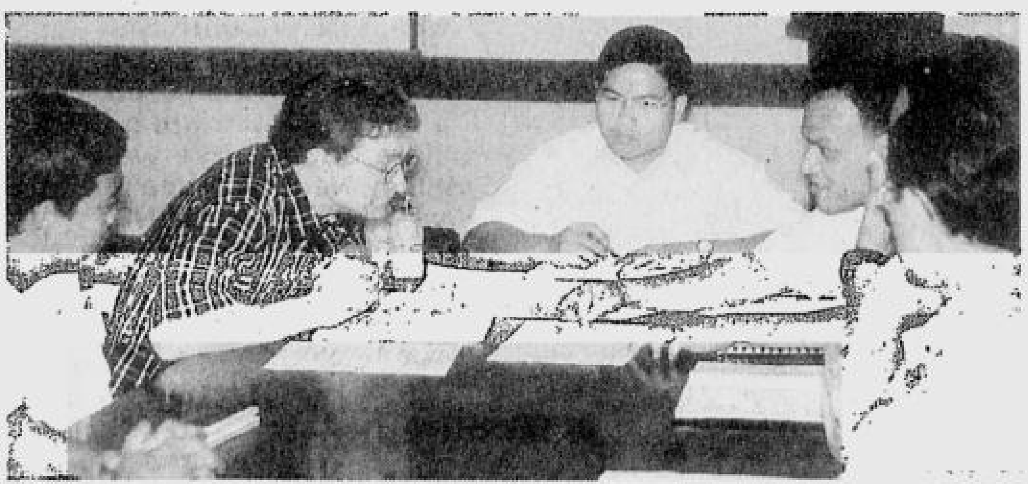


PHOTO FROM DLPC

GRANT
The US Trade and Development Agency (USTDA) recently awarded a grant to the Davao Light and Power Co. (DLPC) Visayan Electric Co. and Cagayan Electric Power and Light Co. for a study on improving power delivery. Charles Perry (second from left), US based consultant, discusses the grant with DLPC officials.

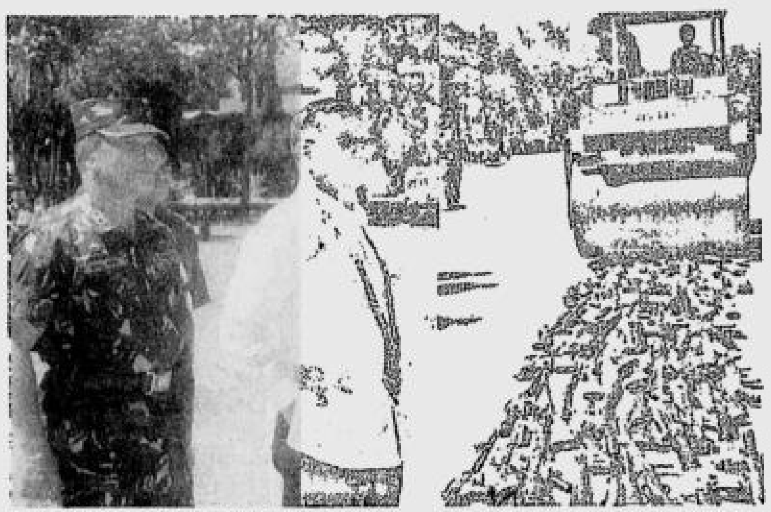


PHOTO FROM DND

TRAVELLING SECRETARY
Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes greets members of the Bantay Bayan during a recent visit to Tagbilaran City, Bohol. The Bantay Bayan is an NGO helping keep the peace in Bohol.

27 frat men face raps for death of neophyte

DAVAO CITY—Twenty-seven fraternity members surrendered to the police to face accusations that they were behind the death of a neophyte in initiation rites in Tagum City.

The suspects, including three grandmasters of the Phi Delta Gamma fraternity, have been charged before the Tagum City Prosecution Office with violating the anti-hazing law for the death of Glenn Suma-oy.

Suma-oy, a student of the Tagum City Trade School and a resident of Banaybanay town in Davao Oriental, suffered multiple contusions and bruises in the body on Saturday. Relatives said the victim died from internal hemorrhage.

Named respondents in the complaint are grandmasters Cyrus Licardo, Argie Navarro and Love Elicano; master initiator Johnny Eisir Ramos; and members Oliver Altizo, Mario Azotes, Jessie Baguol, Erwin Balagya, Cesar Cerbo, Teodoro Concha.

Ericson Enerio, Jovinal Enson, Albert Estrella, Gilbert Famelliza, Ednor Garobillo, Michael Inocencio, Archie Legaspino, Sherwin Liera, Marlon Mangaron, Leo Margoes, Albert Morales, Christian Namoag, Jay Paqa, Renante Perez, Ronald Presto, Marvin Postilano, and Mark Niqo Redoble.

Ramos, who allegedly arranged the initiation, admitted that Suma-oy went through the rites, but claimed that the fraternity men only hit the neophyte's buttocks with a wooden paddle.

The group conducted the initiation rites at a banana grove in Purok Pagkakaisa, New Visayas in Tagum City on Saturday afternoon. ***Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

NICKEL, CHROME DEPOSITS

9 firms gang up on mine-rich villages

BOSTON, Davao Oriental—At least nine multinational mining companies are fighting for the right to explore the mineral-rich area of Pujada Bay in Mati town.

And the prospects of huge revenue from at least two mine-rich villages there have heightened the fight for jurisdiction over the area involving the provinces of Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley and Surigao del Sur.

The Loyalty Mining and Development Corp. has recently urged the Mines and Geosciences Bureau to reject the application of Blue Ridge Mineral Corp. for mineral exploration in Barangays Macambol and Cabuaya in Mati, claiming that the proposed mining sites are part of their "mining claims." The contested mineral-rich lands, the INQUIRER learned, were also being claimed individually by the following multinational mining companies: Saint Patrick Mining and Develoment Corp., Hopewell Mining and Development Corp., P.L. Goodman Mining and Development Corp., Mount Peak Mining and Development Corp., Galactica Mining and Development Corp., Oregon Mining and Development Corp. and Eastern Davao Mining and Development Corp.

20,000 hectares

The proposed mining sites in the Pujada Bay involve some 20,000 hectares of lands belonging to the Mandaya natives.

The INQUIRER learned that the mining firms were also trying to edge out each other by collecting recommendations from government agencies and residents living near the Pujada Bay, an area declared in 1994 by then President Fidel Ramos as a protected site.

Based on initial tests, at least nine coastal villages were confirmed to be sitting on vast reserves of nickel and chromite.

However, despite the rush to outwit each other, an environment officer said it would be difficult for the mining firms to get approval from the Department of Environment and Natural Resources.

Appeal

Gilbert Pajo, provincial environment and natural resources officer, said "even if all the mining firms get favorable recommendations for their projects, they could hardly get mining permits from Environment Secretary Heherson Alvarez mainly because of the Marinduque mining disaster that wrought extensive damage on the environment."

Earlier, the Mining Industry Association (Mina), urged the provincial government to support their desire to explore minerals in the Pujada Bay.

"Give us a chance to correct our mistakes brought about by irresponsible mining practices that wrought extensive damage on the environment in many places of the country . . . Because of the issues raised against the mining industry, we have become transparent, we discuss and present to the public our intentions, we discuss the effects of mining operations to the community and environment," Mina said.

Meanwhile, the provinces of Davao Oriental, Compostela Valley, and Surigao del Sur are fighting for jurisdiction over Barangays Nabunga and Kilometer 55 inside the Agusan-Davao-Surigao "forest reserve."

The villages are reportedly rich in gold.

Lowell Pelayo, a mining engineer at the Davao Oriental environment and natural resources office, said the gold-rush areas belonged to the province.

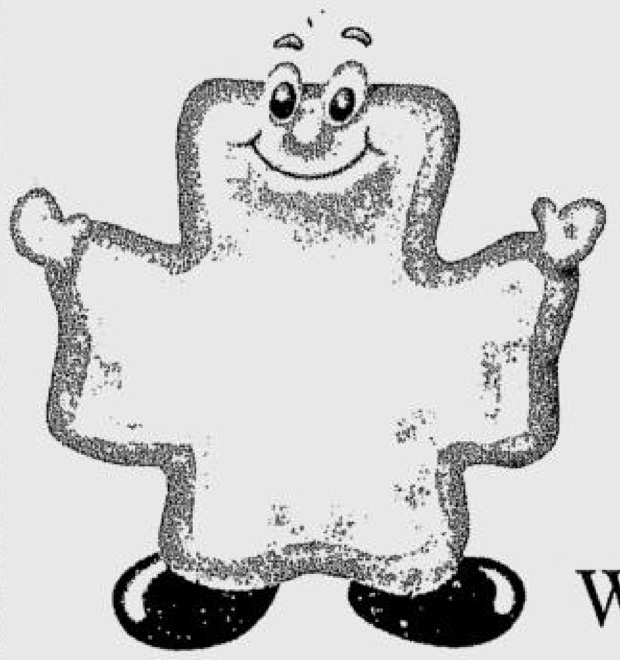
"As a matter of fact, mining firm Southeast Minerals is now asking the Boston municipal council for a favorable recommendation for their project. So, that clearly shows that the disputed land belonged to the province of Davao Oriental," he said.

Land row

Pelayo said former Davao Oriental Gov. Rosalind Lopez tried to settle the matter with Compostela Valley Gov. Jose Caballero.

"But Compostela Valley stood firm in its claim over the disputed land," he said.

Pelayo said in settling the row, Davao Oriental and Compostela Valley officials have agreed to conduct a ground survey in the disputed land, while the jurisdiction controversy with Surigao del Sur is still the subject of court litigation. ***Ferdinand O. Zuasola, PDI Mindanao Bureau***



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First Prize Winner of an IBM Laptop, Nokia 8890 and Palm Pilot:
Eugene Corro

Sales Clerk & Drug Store Winners of a 21" Colored TV and VCD Player each: **Julieta R. Benson** and **Metro Ayala Pharmacy**

Second Prize Winner of Nokia 9210 and VCD Walkman:
Ronaldo M. Sta. Cruz

Third Prize Winner of Compaq I-PAQ Pocket PC:
Jenecy S. Felizarta

Sales Clerk & Drug Store Winners of a VCD Mini-component each:
Maribel Lota and **Jess-Nor Pharmacy**

Sales Clerk & Drug Store Winners of a Nokia 3310 each:
Edlyn Galvez and **Golden Drug Store**

FIRST DRAW

12 Winners of 1 Nokia 6210 each

GMA: 1. **Roberto Gaspar** 2. **Florentino P. Bello** 3.**Shiela Chavez**, **LUZON:** 4. **Ritchie C. Villasanta** 5.**Wenceslao Balilla** 6. **Leon A. Laude, Jr. VISAYAS:** 7.**Daisy Tuando Ferrer** 8. **Raymund Abao** 9. **Julia Bahoyan MINDANAO:** 10. **Alejandro R. Ladroma** 11.**Marlyn Tabigue** 12. **Sitti Radzma S. Yacob**

Sales Clerk & Drug Store Winners of P1,000.00 each

GMA: 1. **Jun Franco, Merced Drug** 2. **Wendel Mahusay, South Star Drug LUZON:** 3. **Leah Macarandang, Carlos Super Drug** 4. **Malou Celestial, South Star Drug** 5. **Dolores M. Yap Ortega, Carlos Super Drug VISAYAS:** 6. **Mary Ann Arsulo, Rose Pharmacy, Inc.** 7. **Julieta R. Benson, Metro Ayala Pharmacy** 8. **Ana Liza S. Alvarez, Crown Pharmacy MINDANAO:** 9. **Nimfa G. Cuizon, Farmacia Southern II** 10. **Ma. Luz Mantana, Golden Drug** 11. **Memie D. Rulona, Joah's Pharmacy**

SECOND DRAW

12 Winners of 1 Sony Playstation each

GMA: 1. **Pascuala-Teresa Agito Ayes** 2. **Roselyn Canong** 3. **Antonio G. de Vera LUZON:** 4. **Adelina C. Felipe** 5. **Angelina B. Ibarra** 6. **Dhony Ann S. Cordero VISAYAS:** 7. **Marivic P. Cabañero** 8. **Femia Jandi** 9. **Clara Torres MINDANAO:** 10. **Ermilinda Banzon** 11. **Arlyn Labadan Lake** 12. **Salvacio B. Yorong**

Sales Clerk & Drug Store Winners of P1,000.00 each

GMA: 1. **Yolly Sultan, South Star Drug** 2. **Bernadette Abraham, New South Star Drug** 3. **Cieleth Dominguez, South Star Drug LUZON:** 4. **Imelda F. Jimenez, Jan Mark Drug Store** 5. **Joana Escoto, St. Anthony Drug** 6. **Leilani S. Carunungan, St. Anthony Drug VISAYAS:** 7. **Thata Castro, Everwell Drug House** 8. **Marilou M. Santillan, Negros Grace Pharmacy** 9. **Charlita Lascuña, Crown Pharmacy. MINDANAO:** 10. **Ma. Luz Montana, Golden Drug** 11. **Mary Josefine G. Israel, Rose Pharmacy** 12. **Nicetas Baricuatro, AGR Pharmacy & Agro Chem.**

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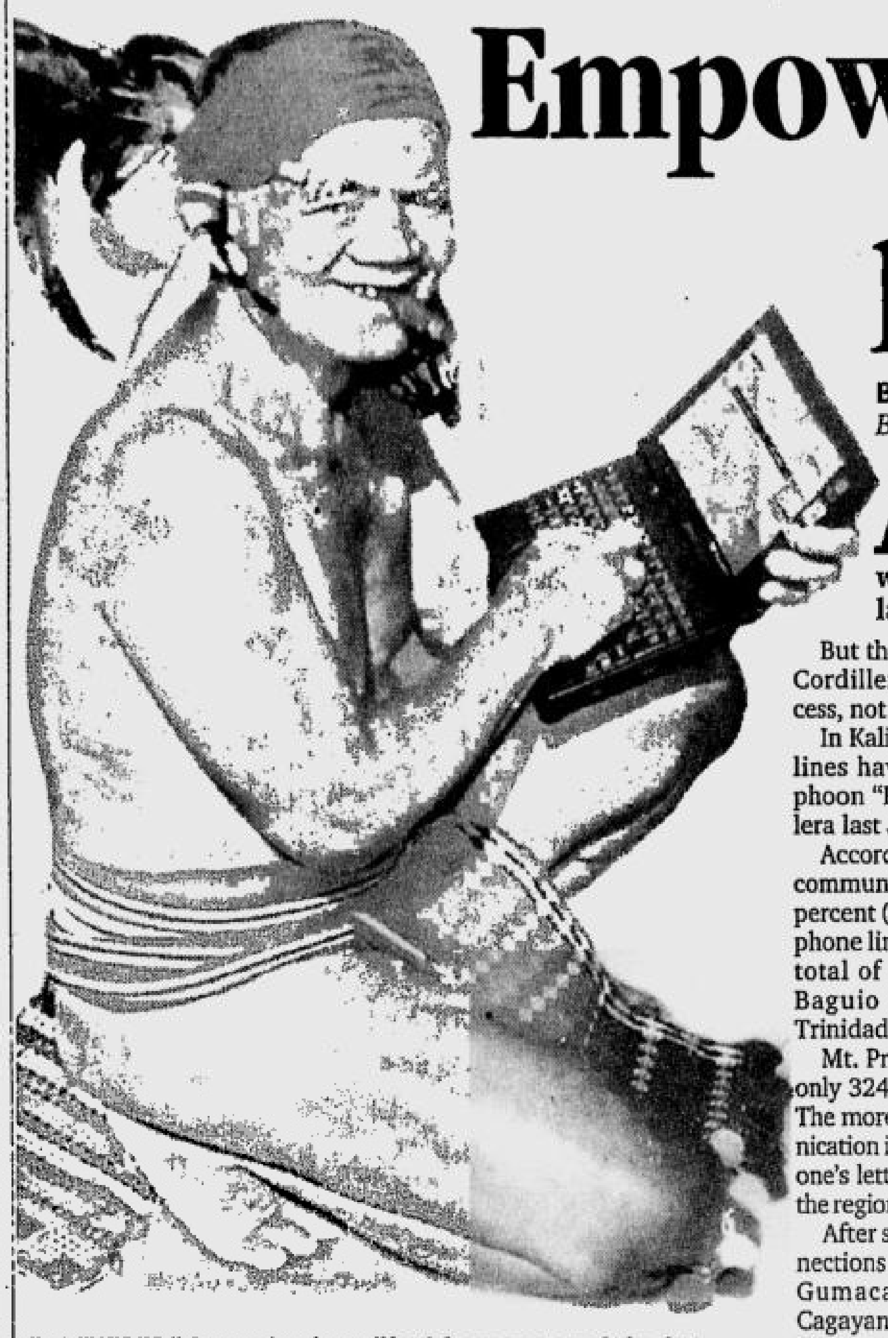
INQUIRER Northern Luzon

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◎ *Bureau Chief* **Rolando B. Fernandez**

Empowering Cordillera people thru IT



THE "WIRED" Igorot in photo lifted from poster of the 1st Cordillera Information Technology Congress.

By Frank Cimatu
Benguet

A RECENT print advertisement on information technology shows a group of Igorot elders gathered around the *dap-ay* (a structure where Cordillera elders meet) and one of them is labeled "e-gorot."

But the fact is, that the typical Cordilleran has no Internet access, not even a telephone access.

In Kalinga, for example, phone lines have been down since typhoon "Feria" struck the Cordillera last July.

According to the National Telecommunications Commission, 93 percent (38,000) of all subscribed phone lines in the Cordillera (or a total of 41,000) are located in Baguio City and nearby La Trinidad, Benguet.

Mt. Province, for example, has only 324 telephone subscriptions. The more reliable form of communication in the Cordillera is sending one's letter through buses that ply the region's rugged mountain trails.

After setting up free e-mail connections in rural communities like Gumaca, Quezon; Iguig, Cagayan; Anda, Pangasinan; and Botolan, Zambales, last year, the Metro Manila-based PH Domain Foundation decided to set up one in the Cordillera, this time in Bontoc, Mt. Province.

The group is thinking not only of bringing IT (information technology) to Bontoc but also empowering the rural communities through Internet and e-mail.

In coordination with Ebgan, a non-government organization dedicated to help stop gender violence in the Cordillera, the PH Domain Foundation (PHDF) has set up three e-mail capable computer sets in Bontoc.

Bontoc wired

Without a local Internet service provider, Bontoc is now connected to the worldwide web through a special software using the existing telecommunication lines.

There are now 200 e-mail subscribers in Bontoc, including Mayor Louis Claver Jr.

"I do not need a computer. I won all my cases when I was a lawyer because I personally type them on my typewriter," Claver said before he opened the computer center recently at the Chico River Inn. Now, he sings a different tune. "There is also a positive side to this technology. We should open ourselves to the challenges of the times."

Lynn Madalang, Ebgan executive director, said PHDF had started giving IT training to students and even farmers of Bontoc and nearby towns.

"Our main aim is to bring the IT to the farmers so they can form a network with other farmers and check, for example, the current prices of vegetables," she said.

"I don't see any intrusion into the Cordillera culture. Like Mayor Claver, they will see that not all in the new technology is bad. Instead of calling long distance through their phones, they can now use their e-mail."

"It's one way of empowering the remote communities, especially the women," she added.

She said they are now soliciting the e-mail addresses of development organizations that can help Bontoc residents seek and develop livelihood opportunities.

Can Ifugao Kid save decaying terraces?

By Jovelyn Reyes
Baguio City

A CARTOON series on the famous Ifugao rice terraces will be shown next year to encourage young people to preserve the endangered world wonder.

A group of Filipino animators and Baguio-based Information Technology (IT) enthusiasts is producing an animated interactive video of an Ifugao kid to talk about the importance of preserving the world-renowned rice terraces.

Norman de la Cruz, animation director of Makati-based NGC Animation Learning Theater, said the animated Ifugao kid will also focus on the diligence and hard work of the Ifugaos so the youth will be motivated to save the decaying terraces.

De la Cruz, 54, announced the project on Feb. 21 during the first Cordillera IT congress in Baguio where he lectured on animation making.

Saying it was his dream to produce an interactive video featuring the Ifugaos, De la Cruz said he had conducted an initial research on Ifugao legends and collected several materials about the indigenous group.

"Some stories have been published but there has been no interactive video, not even a simple documentary video on Ifugao people," he said.

He started his research in 1999, visited some museums in Cordillera and collected ideas on the lives of ancestral Ifugaos.

De la Cruz said he plans to travel to Ifugao to discover its oral tradition.

He is working with people from Cordillera Info-Tech Connections Inc. who will scout for talented children to help complete the animated Ifugao Kid series.

Ifugao Kid will be the second local hero who will be featured on interactive video through animation.

Creations

De la Cruz's first creation was Lapu Boy, a two-episode animated video launched in Manila last year.

Copies of Lapu Boy, however, are not yet available in the country. "The salability of local animation product (like Lapu Boy) in the country is low so we sold it in New York where it was a hit," he said.

De la Cruz said he and other IT groups will produce the Ifugao Kid without any help from the government.

"(The lack of support from the government) is the reason why the industry is targeting the foreign market. In fact, many animators choose to work with foreign animation companies because (animation) is a dying business here," he said.

He said he was optimistic that like Lapu Boy, Ifugao Kid will also be a hit in the foreign market. He said Canadian film producers are looking for Oriental characters from Asian countries.

"Our market is abroad, not here. But our aim is not only to gain but also to market and promote local characters in the world and to preserve history for the young," he said.

Is the Ilocano 'banga' nearing its twilight?

By Cristina Arzadon
Ilocos Norte

YOU cannot miss the stacks of Ilocano earthenware products when you pass by the Laoag City public market. These occupy both flanks of the market's facade during market days.

More than their strategic location, the items—from flowerpots and vases to decorative jars and water jugs—always add luster to the colorful city market.

But aren't market-goers missing out on something lately?

THE ILOCANOS' earthen cooking pot or *banga* seemed to have slowly faded from the scene over the years. Blame it on aluminum kitchenware products which, despite their high lead content, have probably taken over every household kitchen.

Ilocos Norte is home to makers of earthenware products from terra-cotta and pottery, largely a cottage industry that traces its roots in the manufacture of the Ilocanos' "dirty kitchen" composed of *banga* and *dalikan* (traditional stove).

Old folk and culinary experts attest to the wonders of the *banga* when used in cooking. Rice maintains its nutrients while vegetable dishes preserve their sweetness and aroma when prepared in an earthen pot.

But probably because of the advertising hype on revolutionary kitchen facilities, the dirty kitchen gradually bowed out to microwave ovens and aluminum pots.

The *banga* and *dalikan* have been relegated, literally, to the backburner, either as an alternative kitchen for cooking native delicacies or as mere icons of early Ilocano kitchenware.

While such has been the fate of the Ilocano earthen pot over the years, early makers of the *banga* in San Nicolas town, home to the biggest earthenware producers in the province, refuse to throw in the towel.

Family enterprise

Gastora Cudal grew up in a family of pot makers.

At 12, she began playing with clay, often extracted from farmland, and helping her folk produce their kitchen utilities.

Now one of the oldest earthenware-makers in her town, Cudal, 62, still dips her hand in the family-run pottery business set up by her daughter, Ederlina Cudal-Castro.

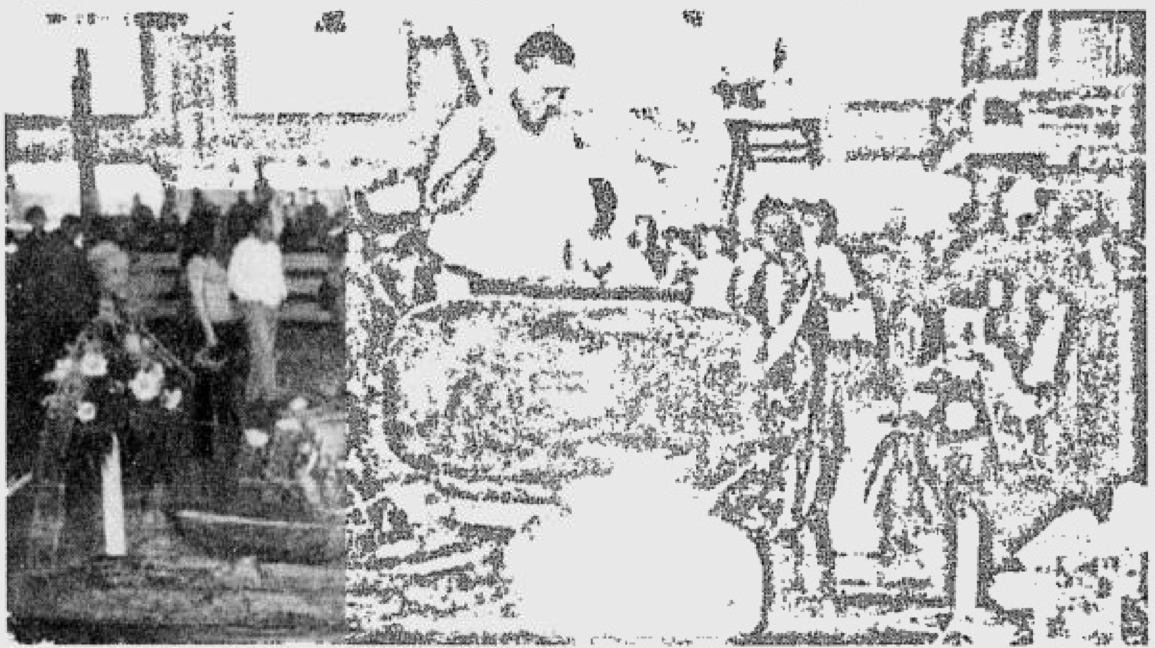
It was probably Cudal's ancestors who introduced earthenware making as a family enterprise in their village. Gastora continued the tradition of producing earthen pots and stoves despite the fledgling market for traditional kitchens.

Business profiles of 15 firms involved in the ceramics industry showed that cooking pots charted the lowest monthly volume of production at only 66 pieces, according to records of the Department of Trade and Industry in Ilocos Norte.

The products include bricks, which generated the highest monthly volume at 2,067, followed by flowerpots at 1,088, tiles at 650, and stoves at 480.

Cudal's daughter said that while *banga*-making may have originated from her elders as a traditional industry, she has since switched to producing other items, such as flowerpots and vases, because of their higher marketability.

"Hardly anyone uses the earthen pots and stoves these days. We produce these items but we do not use them in our homes," said Castro, whose household depends on gas stoves and commercial pots for daily cooking.



THE "BANGA" and "dalikan" come alive during Laoag City's Pamulinawen Festival. CRISTINA ARZADON

Castro and other earthenware producers have formed the Damilian Association (*damilian* is an Ilocano term for producing something by cooking) to avail themselves of loans being offered by government agencies. The association depends on the local market for their products.

Labor-intensive

"I don't intend to produce the *banga* alone because that's not what the market demands. Besides, producing the *banga* is capital and labor-intensive, but its market price is pegged only at P10 per piece," Castro said.

She said the process involved in producing the *banga* is similar to nurturing a newborn child.

"You have to handle it with care and cradle it like a baby; otherwise, it will break into pieces with a few bad strokes," she said.

Unlike flowerpots and jars, the *banga* uses extra clay and takes about five methods more than the process in producing other earthenware. Its body has to be made compact to fill up any gaps or else, water will find a way out even through the tiny holes.

Because of the intricate process involved in producing earthen pots, only the *babbaket* (elderly women) are relied upon to produce these. They said the youngsters lack the patience to learn the craft of making the *banga*.

"Cooking pots might take much longer to produce than flowerpots or jars. But when you have grown with the craft, it's like learning the ABC all over again. We can make one even with our eyes closed," Cudal said.

Besides working full-time in her daughter's shop, Cudal alternately participates in seminar-workshops on pottery in and outside the province as a lecturer. Recently, she went to Mindanao to demonstrate the methods in making the *banga* before participants composed mostly of manufacturers and owners of ceramics companies.

Cudal, incidentally, produced in three weeks the "mother-of-all *banga*" and the *dalikan* that took center stage during the Pamulinawen Festival, Laoag's fiesta celebrations last month.

The giant earthenware, which was used to hold hundreds of kilos of pre-cooked *pinakbet*, was reintroduced to city residents to revive their interest in the age-old cooking pot.

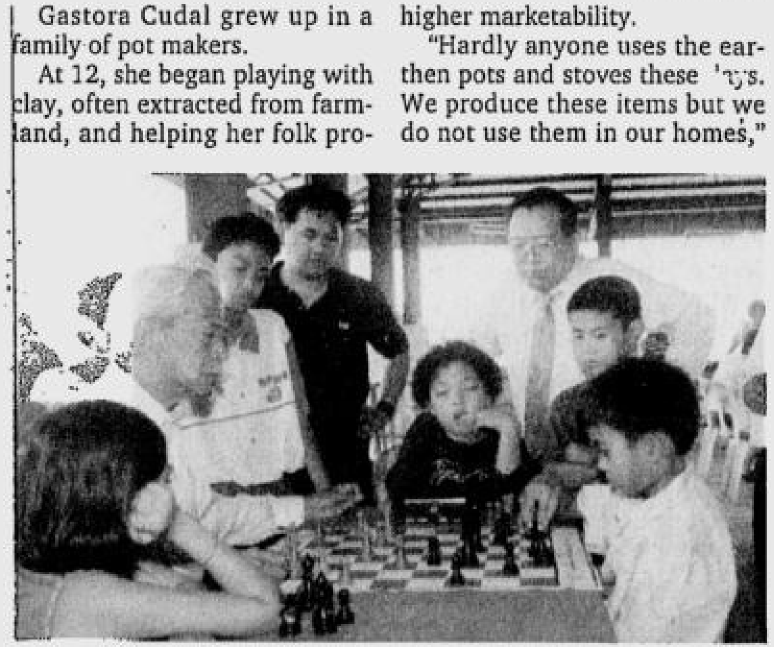
Like Cudal, the *banga* may be approaching its twilight years, but the entry of entrepreneurs who have reinvented the product as a decorative item could yet breathe a new life to the Ilocano ware.

Veronica Ceramics in Paoay town started manufacturing small terra-cotta products in 1997 with the miniature *banga* and *dalikan* in their product line. It also produces jars, vases, canisters, lamps, planters and ashtrays.

The firm infused a capital of P210,000 and has generated gross sales of P725,000 in the last three years with an average monthly production of 1,200 pieces of assorted items. It listed the mini pots and stoves as among its top five saleable prod-

ILOCANO/A19

Pangasinan chess whiz kid a potential GM



FORMER Fide president Florencio Campomanes Jr. tests the skills of chess sensation Haridas Pascua, a Grade 2 pupil from Mangatarem, Pangasinan. PETER LA. JULIAN

By Peter La. Julian
San Fernando City

GIVEN the breaks and proper training, 8-year-old chess wizard Haridas Pascua of Mangatarem, Pangasinan, could become the country's youngest grandmaster.

"He has the potential to become a grandmaster," former Fide (Federacion Internationale Des Eches) president Florencio Campomanes Jr. said.

Campomanes saw Pascua play and easily defeat his older rivals in matches during the 2002 La Union Open Chess Championship in San Fernando City in La Union.

To test Pascua, a Grade 2 pupil of the Mangatarem Central School, Campomanes made an unannounced visit in San Fernando on March 5 and played chess with the boy during a break in the tournament.

"He (Pascua) has the style, the attitude, the way of thinking and the other traits of a good chess player," said Campomanes, who headed the world's chess' highest governing body for 16 years.

Of course, Pascua, who began playing chess at age 2, did not beat Campomanes. But the boy certainly gave the chess guru, who has more than half a century of the King's Game behind him, a run for his money.

Pascua was one of the 151 wood pushers who joined the chess championships, La Union's biggest chess event. Participants included two grandmasters (Eugene Torre and Rogelio Antonio Jr.), two international masters, a Fide master, 20 national masters and three national women masters.

Sixty-two participants had National Chess Federation of the Philippines (NCFP) ratings.

For topping the kiddie group (8-14 years old), Pascua received a special prize of P3,000. It was the biggest money he earned for

PANGASINAN/A19

Pangasinan chess whiz kid a potential grandmaster

(From page 18)

playing his most favorite game, he said.

Playing with his peers and grizzled men old enough to be his grandfathers, Pascua scored five points in the nine-round, six-day chess tournament. He beat two Manila-rated players and one of the country's top kid players.

His victims included Roberto Torres, who has a NCFP rating of 1886, and Verth Alora (1877), editor of the Chess Kingdom, a chess magazine.

Pascua conquered 11-year-old Kimberly Cunanan of Angeles City, a member of the Philippine Kiddie Team (under 12 age group) that joined in the World Youth Chess Championship in Oropesa del Mar in Spain in November last year.

He ranked 60th among the 151 participants, but he was in a bracket (5-point finishers) that included National Masters Mirabeau Maga and Ben Flores Jr. He finished ahead of Joann Toledo, the reigning national women's champion.

Before he came to participate in his first big tournament, Pascua, who also knows karate, upset Mangatarem's chess champion, Robert Bautista, 30, in a showdown among the town's "rated" wood pushers.

Pascua is the youngest of two children of Gilbert and Vina Pascua. The Pascuas maintain a gift shop, their only source of income in Mangatarem.

His older sister, Dasi, is last year's chess champion of the Ilocos Region Athletic Association in the under-12 category.

Joseph Dumuk, Ilocos coordinator of the NCFP, described as "great" Pascua's chances of being developed as chess champion.

Last year, the NCFP started a program for the country's children who have potentials to excel in the sport by sending them abroad to participate in chess tournaments like the World Youth Chess Championship in Spain last year.

Pascua, Dumuk said, must be given all the support he needed to achieve his goal.

"To become a National Master is hard. Harder is to gain a Grandmaster norm—it is a long process that entails money, time and effort," he said.

Pascua said he wanted to follow in the footsteps of his province mate, Rodolfo Tan Cardoso, Asia's first International Master. He could even surpass Cardoso's achievement by annexing for himself a grandmaster crown.

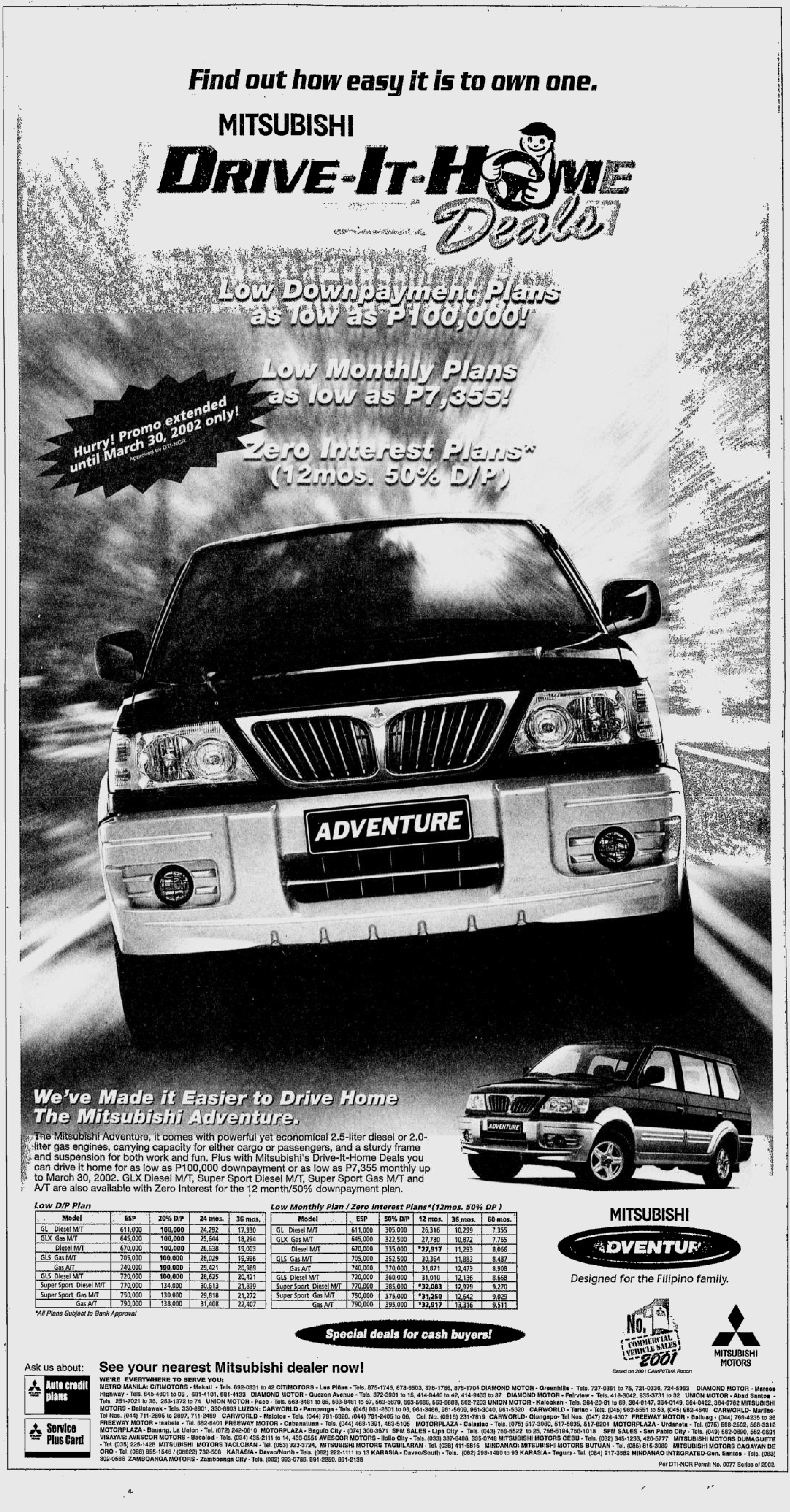
Cardoso, a native of Bolinao, Pangasinan, gained a grandmaster norm but never became a grandmaster.

Ilocano

(From page 18)

ucts.

The firm availed itself of assistance from the DTI in terms of product development, training on entrepreneurial skills and marketing, and has since joined local and national trade fairs.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GLS Gas M/T	705,000	100,000	28,029	19,996
Gas A/T	740,000	100,000	29,421	20,989
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	100,000	28,625	20,421
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	134,000	30,613	21,839
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	130,000	29,818	21,272
Gas A/T	790,000	138,000	31,408	22,407

*All Plans Subject to Bank Approval

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Model	ESP	50% D/P	12 mos.	36 mos.	60 mos.
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GLX Gas M/T	645,000	322,500	27,780	10,872	7,765
Diesel M/T	670,000	335,000	*27,917	11,293	8,066
GLS Gas M/T	705,000	352,500	30,364	11,883	8,487
Gas A/T	740,000	370,000	31,871	12,473	8,908
GLS Diesel M/T	720,000	360,000	31,010	12,136	8,668
Super Sport Diesel M/T	770,000	385,000	*32,083	12,979	9,270
Super Sport Gas M/T	750,000	375,000	*31,250	12,642	9,029
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Cimatu scores US spokesperson

From page A1

Freedom-Philippines."

In Basilan, Agence France Presse quoted Col. Alexander Aleo as saying that Philippine troops clashed briefly with the Abu Sayyaf yesterday, leaving an undetermined number of bandits killed.

Citing field reports, Aleo said the firefight occurred when the soldiers caught up with the bandits at a mountainous area near Tuburan town.

He said the bandits retreated into the jungle with their dead comrades.

Aleo, commander of the Philippine Army's 103rd Brigade, told the Associated Press that it had been a "hide-and-seek game" between the military and the Abu Sayyaf.

"We conduct reconnaissance patrols, combat patrols, but they do not engage. They either withdraw or move out of the place," Aleo said of the bandits.

He added: "Since they are not coming out, we are the ones who show ourselves to them. If they will fire, their position will be compromised, so they just hide and hide. But we know their general location."

Aleo also said the US military's plan to fly spy planes over Basilan would complement intelligence on the ground to help find the bandits.

Big question

But Bayan Muna Rep. Satur Ocampo questioned the use of the spy planes.

"The mere operation and expanse of the surveillance are now a big question," Ocampo told the INQUIRER after a speaking engagement at the Western Mindanao State University.

He said that granting the accuracy of Teramae's statement, "it's the government that purchased the spy planes."

"How many of these units have been acquired? What is the cost?" he said.

But Cimatu said the government "did not spend anything" for the UAVs.

"These are (part) of the commitment of the US government's training package to help the (AFP) enhance its capability," he said.

Ocampo also questioned the extent of the spy planes' coverage, pointing out that "the exercise is confined to Basilan and Zamboanga City."

He said Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes had to clarify who would operate the surveillance planes.

"How can we be sure that the information gathered by the government-contracted surveillance aircraft would be turned over to the (Department of National Defense), and not shared with foreign countries like the US?" he said.

Teramae said the UAVs, manufactured by the American firm Sanders Aviation Research Group, arrived here Sunday from Okinawa, Japan.

She refused to give the actual number of the drones, but said these were being run by a 20-member US team.

Future terror groups

Reuters quoted National Security Adviser Roilo Golez as saying that the United States was training Filipino soldiers not only to stamp out the Abu Sayyaf but also to prevent the Philippines from becoming a haven of future terror groups.

"We know that the end of the Abu Sayyaf does not mean the end of terrorism in the Philippines because for sure . . . there will be other home-grown terrorist groups and probably other international terror groups that might want to land here," Golez said in an interview on the Manila-based ANC television network.

"That is precisely what we are trying to avoid and prevent," he said.

Golez was commenting on US President George W. Bush's speech in Washington on Monday renewing the US determination to defeat terror networks wherever they might be.

About 160 members of the US Special Forces are training Filipino troops to improve the local soldiers' capability in fighting the Abu Sayyaf, which the United States has linked to Osama bin Laden's al-Qaida network.

Golez said the training could serve as a model for training by US forces of troops in Yemen and Georgia, which Bush indicated could also be future havens of terror groups.

"It is clear not only from (Bush's) speech but from documents that I have seen . . . that Yemen and Georgia would like to have the same arrangements because they also would like to benefit from the training program that the US is making available," he said.

Asked if there were intelligence reports about threats from new terror groups, Golez said simply: "There are, and we are taking preventive measures."

He said the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 and a proposed agreement among the Philippines, Malaysia and Indonesia on exchange of information were part of such anti-terror efforts.

What's in a name?

Golez told defense reporters that there was nothing sinister in the reference to Balikatan 02-1 as "Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines."

"Critics will always find something wrong about this exercise that will also benefit them," he said. "Even if you name it Sampaguita, they will say it has a hidden agenda, when there is none."

Last week, the US military started calling the joint military exercise "Operation Enduring Freedom-Philippines," to indicate the second front of the US-led global war against terrorism.

The use of the name has boosted suspicion that the US government was launching a military operation, and not a mere training exercise, in the Philippines after Afghanistan.

But for Golez, there is "no problem" and "no implication."

"I think they just named it (according to) their classification of . . . general operations against terrorists," he said. "And since Balikatan is a training exercise against terrorism, maybe they classified it as such . . . Balikatan is still the official name, even if you go to Zamboanga. Balikatan is still the name for the exercises for both countries."

Capt. Noel Detoyato, Southcom spokesperson for operations, echoed Golez's assurances.

"We will still do the fighting and they will be assisting us with their technology and also training our men," he said in another interview. ***Reports from Julie S. Alipala, PDI Mindanao Bureau; Martin P. Marfil in Manila; AFP; AP; Reuters***

US MILITARY spokesperson, Maj. Cynthia Teramae, scored for speaking out of turn.

VAL HANDUMON

Bush cites . . .

From page A1

nations waved during the chilly, windy rites.

The ceremonies began at 9:50 a.m. (10:50 Monday night, Manila time) with patriotic and inspirational hymns by the Harlem Boy's Choir. Then ambassadors from Nigeria, South Korea and Turkey spoke briefly, promising continued support and praising Bush's leadership. The event took place at the South Lawn of the White House.

Second stage

Before recognizing President Macapagal's role, Bush announced the start of "the second stage of the war on terror," in which America "encourages and expects governments everywhere to help remove the terrorist parasites that threaten their own countries and peace of the world."

He added: "If governments need training, or resources to meet this commitment, America will help.

"We are helping right now in the Philippines, where terrorists with links to al-Qaida are trying to seize the southern part of the country to establish a militant regime. They are oppressing local peoples, and have kidnapped both American and Filipino citizens. America has sent more than 500 troops to train Philippine forces."

Signals

His public expression of gratitude to coalition partners was viewed as a gesture to insure sustained global support.

"Every civilized nation has a part in this struggle, because every civilized nation has a stake in its outcome," he noted.

In Bush's State of the Nation address in January, he singled out Pakistan's crucial role in turning the tide in the fight against the al-Qaida terrorist network in Afghanistan. But he did not mention major coalition partners, such as the British and other European nations.

The al-Qaida network is identified with Osama bin Laden, the suspected mastermind of the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks.

Bush said: "The power and vitality of our coalition have been proven in Afghanistan. More than half of the forces now assisting the heroic Afghan fighters, or providing security in Kabul, are from countries other than the United States.

"There are many examples of commitment: our good ally, France, has deployed nearly one-fourth of its navy to support Operation Enduring Freedom, and Great Britain has sent its largest naval task force in 20 years. British and American special operations forces have fought beside teams from Australia, and Canada, Norway, Denmark and Germany.

"In total, 17 nations have forces deployed in the region. And we could not have done our work without critical support from countries, particularly like Pakistan and Uzbekistan."

Popularity

Even with his 90-percent approval rating, Bush displayed a war president's keen understanding of the need to sustain the support of the American people in the face of recent combat fatalities, and the long campaign against terrorism.

The American people strongly support Bush and the direction of the anti-terrorist campaign, a survey showed. In Monday's Washington Post story ("Poll: Strong Backing for Bush, War"), a survey by that paper and TV network ABC showed:

- Nine out of 10 Americans continued to support the US action in Afghanistan;
- More than six in 10 said it was more important to capture or kill al-Qaida terrorist network members than to eliminate suspected Sept. 11 mastermind Bin Laden;
- Three in four believed the United States was not fighting an inconclusive war like the Vietnam conflict;
- Seven in 10 supported the sending of US troops to "help capture terrorists in other countries, such as the Philippines and Yemen."

Bio-terrorism

Bush urged the coalition to take seriously the growing threat of terror on a catastrophic scale—attacks with the use of biological, chemical or nuclear weapons.

He said America was now consulting with friends and allies "about this greatest of dangers," determined to confront it.

Also present during the moving rites were congressional leaders, Supreme Court justices, an upbeat Secretary of State Colin L. Powell and Transportation Secretary Norman Y. Mineta, gamely walking with a crutch after a recent hip surgery.

Catholics, Protestants form group to protest presence of US troops

TROOPS, Filipino and American,© survey a possible landing port in Barangay Tabuk, Isabela, to bring in military supplies.

ERNIE U.SARMIENTO

ILOILO CITY—Some 150 members of Catholic and Protestant groups in Panay and Guimaras islands yesterday formed Cry Out Now, short for Church People Cry: Out with the US Troops Now.

Defying the tag "Abu Sayyaf lover," they announced plans to use pulpits and prayer groups to spread the word that the RP-US Balikatan 02-1 was in violation of the Constitution and of Philippine sovereignty, worked against peace, and promoted war.

They also raged against the suddenly brisk business of prostitution.

The Cry Out Now chapter here is the seventh such group formed, after those in Samar-Leyte, Manila, Angeles, Bicol, Davao and Zamboanga.

Cry Out Now is backed by the Iglesia Filipiniana Independiente (IFI) and Protestant churches like the United Church of Christ in the Philippines, Convention Baptist Churches, United Methodist and Salvation Army in Iloilo.

Catholic priests were also present at the launch held at St. Clement's Retreat House in La Paz here.

"Our work is long and hard while the path is narrow.

But let us not despair in telling the message that we are opposed to US military intervention in our country," said Nick Primavera of the Western Visayas Ecumenical Council.

Fr. Allan Jose Arcebuche OFM, spokesperson of the Promotion for Church People's Response, said the earlier statement of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines was not totally pro-Balikatan 02-1.

He said the CBCP had also warned that it would protest any human rights violations committed by the US troops in the course of the military exercise.

Arcebuche also said many bishops and clergy were critical of the US military presence.

Fr. Larry Herrera, director of IFI's St. Paul Seminary, said Cry Out Now was looking forward to working with the Archdiocese of Jaro, under Archbishop Angel Lagdameo.

The archdiocese had earlier taken strong positions against Charter change, gambling, and then President Joseph Estrada.

In Davao, militant and civic groups opposing the Balikatan exercise have formulated a "people's resolution" declaring the city a US troops-free zone.

They said the US military presence "poses grave implications to Davao City and its people," and "makes the city a magnet of attacks."

Joel Virador, secretary general of Karapatan, said the resolution would be forwarded to the city council. ***Reports from Ma. Diosa Labiste and Nestor P. Burgos Jr., PDI Visayas Bureau; Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

These docs say macho Pinoys lousy lovers

From page A1

called "Sex Talks"—aired these myth-busting observations at a news briefing on a global study on sexual attitudes and behavior conducted by the pharmaceutical firm Pfizer.

"Many Filipino men are naïve and they don't know too many things about sex," said Dr. Sonia Castro-Rodriguez, a child and adult psychiatrist.

Many Filipino men feel that "sex is an end in itself, period," and do not realize that there are "factors attached" to the sex act that will make women more stimulated and the act more pleasurable, Rodriguez said.

Sex Talks was formed in 1999 upon the initiative of Pfizer, maker of the anti-impotence drug Viagra.

The group holds sessions with local doctors on how to be more comfortable discussing sex with their patients.

It was formed after a study found that only 12 percent of local doctors were comfortable talking about sexual dysfunction in their patients as a result of diabetes, cardiovascular disease, psychological problems and other factors affecting one's ability to engage in sex.

In an interview with the INQUIRER following the briefing, Rodriguez said these factors were "cultural, religious, and psychological," and included "marital conflict and drugs."

'Hindi pala macho'

Rodriguez said Pfizer released Viagra in the Philippine market thinking that Filipinos were "sexually preoccupied."

"*Hindi pala* (They are not)," she said, "*Hindi pala macho ang* Pinoy—that's what Pfizer found out."

Rodriguez said Filipino men "still know little about how to use their apparatus."

"It's not just penetration," she said, and pointed out that for women, what made sex enriching was the "ambience" and the "relationship factor."

"After the sex act, it does not end there for the female," Rodriguez said. "There is still the 'Do you love me?' and 'Do you care?' talk."

All these "affect the physical aspect of sex," she said.

Rodriguez said "what's surprising" was that Filipino women aged 40 to 80 were generally taking the initiative in having their men seek medical treatment for sexual dysfunction.

A big number of wives are actually telling their partners, "*Sabihin mo na kay* Doc (Go ahead, tell Doc)," according to her.

"In 50 percent of the cases we've seen so far, it's the wife urging the husband . . . because she's also affected," Rodriguez said.

Dr. Anthony Leachon, medical and regulatory affairs division director at Pfizer, confirmed this.

Better after 50

Talking about sexual health in aging couples, Dr. Juliano K. Panganiban, a urological surgeon, said women became more sexually active as they grew older.

Panganiban said women aged 20 to 30 generally suffered from "inhibited sexual desire" because they were preoccupied with their careers or did not want to get pregnant.

"Women over 50 feel that sex is better—there is no fear of getting pregnant," he said.

Rodriguez agreed, saying that as Filipino women grew older, especially after menopause, they became "more relaxed, not just talking, but active in sex."

"They surpass the male when it comes to sex," she said.

RP to rethink . . .

From page A1

the members of the EU," the trade secretary said.

Roxas said that other Asian countries were also rethinking their membership in the WTO because of the EU's position.

"By discriminating against us, Thailand and other Asian countries are rethinking their commitment to being part of WTO," he said.

The WTO, which has 143 members, seeks to promote freer global trade by demanding cuts in tariffs, lifting of import restrictions, liberalized investment rules and strict compliance to intellectual property rights.

But not all members follow WTO rules. US President George W. Bush, for instance, raised last week the tariff on imported steel to protect the US steel industry. EU members protested his decision, saying that they will raise the issue before the WTO.

One of WTO's newest members is China. Many fear that its accession to the WTO will make the exports of many developing countries like the Philippines uncompetitive because China offers low wages.

In the Philippines, the lifting of import restrictions and cuts in tariffs have decimated local industries that cannot compete with the influx of cheap products, causing thousands of workers to lose their jobs.

At the round of WTO trade talks in Doha, Qatar, in November last year, the Philippines suggested the possibility of reducing the tariff imposed on tuna, but the EU's position was lukewarm.

EU-member countries noted that there was an increase in the volume of Philippine tuna exports to the EU, indicating that the tariff had no adverse effects on the Philippine export product.

"We (countered), 'yes our exports are increasing, but we could have sold more had you not increased the tariff,'" Roxas said.

The controversy will be the subject of a discussion this month and the next between Philippine and EU representatives.

"We are in constant communication with the EU, as agreed upon during the Doha round," Roxas said.

Most of the country's tuna exports come from Mindanao. Tuna chunk exports amounted to $122.088 million last year, according to the Department of Trade and Industry office in Southern Mindanao.

Merly Cruz, DTI regional director, said about 70 percent of the country's canned tuna exports went to EU-member countries.

Palace announces Holy Week-long break

From page A1

for work on Holy Monday (March 25) and Holy Tuesday (March 26) "under certain conditions."

She also declared Holy Wednesday (March 27) a holiday, but only for government employees, and Black Saturday (March 30) a special non-working day.

This means that vacationers can enjoy practically a week of free time because Maundy Thursday and Good Friday are regular holidays.

"Our people must be given the full and uninterrupted opportunity to ponder on the significance of the Holy Week and to properly observe its traditions with religious fervor, without prejudice to public interest," the President said in Proclamation No. 164, which she signed on March 11.

Government employees will even get a shorter workweek next month. Today, at the earliest, Malacañang is expected to issue a proclamation designating a four-day workweek for April, according to presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao. The four-day workweek is aimed at promoting domestic tourism.

But employers are not amused by the President's "holiday economics," which they lambasted as unproductive.

The Federation of Philippine Industries (FPI) urged the government to adhere to a fixed number of paid holidays in a year to allow investors to plan ahead their operations and maximize their facilities.

FPI chair Raul T. Concepcion said that businessmen were fed up with the government's penchant for declaring too many paid holidays, which not only burden corporations with added salaries but also lost production time.

Concepcion said most investors spend a lot of money to build factories that they expect to operate as much as 24 hours a day. But unforeseen holidays disrupt their operations, forcing them to catch up on their work in the following workdays.

"We realize the government's need to boost tourism with these holidays but this should be balanced by the business community's need to beef up its operations in the face of economic slowdown," Concepcion said.

In a letter to Ms Macapagal, Donald G. Dee, Employers Confederation of the Philippines president, said the government should maintain the traditional legal holidays considering that businessmen were still "weathering the doldrums."

Losses

Dee said the benefits of proclaiming more holidays in terms of increased tourism earnings "are far outweighed by the costs incurred by most businesses and by further losses in productivity."

He said that companies that need to operate continuously through the holidays must pay 130 percent of the basic salaries of their workers.

"For exporters and other businesses that have production quotas to meet as well as labor-intensive enterprises, the additional and unexpected expenses can mean the difference between loss and profit, between viability and distress," the Dee said.

Under Proclamation No. 164, all employees of government departments, offices, agencies and instrumentalities, including government-owned and controlled corporations, are not required to report for work on March 25 and 26.

The President, however, provided the following exceptions:

- The respective heads of these agencies "may, if required by the exigencies of public service," order their employees to observe regular working hours.
- Employees of the Bureaus of Internal Revenue and Customs, and other agencies "that impose deadlines on the transacting public for payment of taxes, fees or fines and for compliance with reportorial and other requirements."
- Employees of government agencies "providing police, security, fire protection, custodial, rescue, emergency, medical and other similar services."

The President said that employers in the private sector, except those providing banking, financial, health, security and "other vital services to the public," had "the option of not requiring their employees to report for work" on March 25 and 26.

But employers, who opt not to have their employees report for work, "are urged to make the necessary arrangements."

These "may include increasing work hours or allowing work on other days before and/or after the Holy Week to ensure that daily paid workers are paid the equivalent of the wages or compensation that they would have earned on the said dates and that production schedules are met to maintain a continuous supply of goods and services."

"All existing labor laws shall be observed," the President said.

Philip Morris accused of using defective filters

From page A1

plastic-like fibers and carbon granules released by the defective filters which they believe is caused by the high speed of the manufacturing process.

Concerns about the health effects of the filters go back to 1957, according to the report.

"Many methods exist to prevent and correct the filter defect, but have not been implemented and results of investigations substantiating defective filters have been concealed from the smoker and the health community," Pauly said.

The scientists said the tobacco industry had been negligent because it had failed to assess the health risk of inhaling the cellulose acetate filter fragments and carbon micro-particles.

Collusion

Another researcher also found a smoking gun that Philip Morris had been colluding with Hollywood in promoting tobacco use in films.

"The tobacco industry understood the value of encouraging tobacco use in films and how to do it," said Dr. Staley Glantz of the University of California in San Francisco.

From Sean Connery in "Never Say Never" to Paul Hogan in "Crocodile Dundee," actors lit up on screen because of the alleged collusion between Hollywood and the tobacco industry, according to Glantz.

Even Betty Boop, the wide-eyed cartoon character, promoted smoking by selling cigarettes in "Who Framed Roger Rabbit," he said.

The tobacco industry claims it has ended the practice.

Glantz, however, said smoking in motion pictures had increased throughout the 1990s.

"Until something is done to reduce and eliminate pro-tobacco images on film, motion pictures will remain one of the most powerful forces in the world promoting tobacco and serving the tobacco industry's financial interest," he said.

Deep relationship

In an analysis of previously secret industry documents made available on the Internet, Glantz said he had found evidence of a long and deep relationship between tobacco giants and Hollywood.

It includes placing tobacco products in movies and television shows, encouraging actors and celebrities to use the products and sponsoring entertainment events.

The research, also reported in the journal Tobacco Control on Tuesday, provides information on how tobacco companies worked to maximize their product exposure on the big screen.

Philip Morris placed its products in more than 191 movies between 1978 and 1988, including "Grease," "Crocodile Dundee," "Die Hard" and "Field of Dreams," according to Glantz's report.

"We believe that most of the strong, positive images for cigarettes and smoking are created by cinema and television," Glantz quoted a 1989 Philip Morris marketing plan as saying.

"We have seen the heroes smoking in 'Wall Street,' 'Crocodile Dundee' and 'Roger Rabbit,'" the report added.

Denial

A spokesperson for Philip Morris International said product placement contradicted the company's marketing policy.

"We do not make direct or indirect payment or any kind of contribution for product placement. There has been no such thing for a decade more," said Remi Calvet.

"It's possible such things had occurred in the past but we are talking about history now," he added.

Glantz said Hollywood executives and film stars had received free samples or lucrative fees to exclusively smoke or promote certain brands.

According to the report, funding from the tobacco industry was withdrawn if cigarettes were not shown in a positive way.

"The increase in tobacco use and the continuing appearance of specific brands in movies since 1990 may reflect continuing activities by the tobacco industry, despite the industry's voluntary restrictions on such practices," Glantz added in the report. *Reuters*

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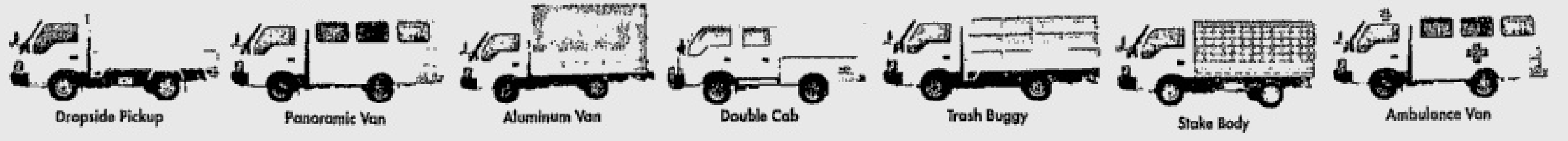

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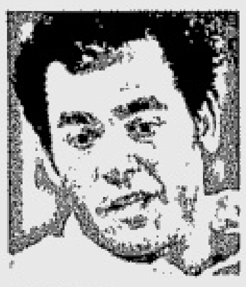
SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◎ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

Sampras bucks 36 errors, drowns Fish with 18 aces

INDIAN WELLS, California—Pete Sampras, looking for his first title since Wimbledon in 2000, began the Pacific Life Open with a 7-6 (5), 6-2 victory over U.S. qualifier Mardy Fish on Monday.



SAMPRAS

The 30-year-old Sampras of the United States used his trademark serve-and-volley game to overcome 36 unforced errors against Fish. Sampras served 18 aces to just one for Fish, 10 years his junior.

After clinching the first-set tiebreaker with an ace, Sampras came back in the second set to break Fish's serve in the first and third games. The champion at Indian Wells in 1994 and 1995, Sampras lost to countryman Andre Agassi in the final last year and has gone a stretch of 22 tournaments without winning a title.

Top-seeded Australian Lleyton Hewitt opened the men's tournament with a 6-4, 6-4 victory over Carlos Moya of Spain. *AP*

Henman defeats Robredo

INDIAN WELLS, California—Briton Tim Henman defeated Spain's Tommy Robredo in three sets here Monday to reach the second round of the first elite Tennis Masters Series event of the year.

Henman, who started the year with a tournament title in Adelaide and is currently lying fourth in the ATP Tour champion's points race, needed two hours and 34 minutes to post a 6-2, 6-7 (7/9), 6-4 victory over Robredo, currently 81st in the points race.

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Nagtalon cops Asian bronze

NATIONAL women's triathlon champion Anna Marissa "Popo" Nagtalon won the bronze medal in the 1st Asian Aquathlon Championship on Sunday in Sentosa Island, Singapore, held under the auspices of the Asian triathlon Championship (ASTC). Teammate Lakambini Aito finished next to her more than 3 minutes behind.

RFM's Joey C eyes MBA grassroots development

RFM, a byword in basketball after its almost three decades of stint with the PBA, may yet return to the sport if plans do not miscarry.

CONCEPCION

RFM president Joey Concepcion has expressed keen interest in backing the Metropolitan Basketball Association concept of grassroots development.

Top level talks between Concepcion and Santi Araneta, MRBI chair, have recently started toward that end.

Concepcion, who is one of the sponsors of the Philippine Team's campaign to the September Asian Games in Busan, Korea, has raised the possibility of RFM buying into the Metro-Regional Basketball Inc. (MRBI), the management and marketing arm of the MBA.

In a recent meeting with Araneta, Concepcion vouched for the MBA's renewed approach in recognizing untapped resources especially players from the provinces, in boosting the country's sports program in general, through basketball development.

Concepcions' possible buy-in of a large chunk of MRBI shares will involve the formation of the Regional Sports Inc., the MBA's new marketing and management group which would run the corporate structure of the MBA.

"The possibility of Mr. Concepcion's group taking an active role in the MBA was raised. And with Mr. Concepcion's unparalleled experience in mixing corporate sense with national responsibilities will boost our league's grassroot development program," Araneta said.

"We have always been a supporter of Philippine sports and not just basketball. The MBA's concept of grassroots development could be what our untapped players in the provinces have long been waiting for. We, in RFM, believe in the Filipino spirit. And if we see our people strive for success, we also can see our country moving forward," Concepcion said.

lley
ionships

EYES ON THE BALL

Ness Daza (right) and Rachel Ann Salvo of the Central Colleges of the Philippines eye the ball in the 6th Nestea Beach Volley Championships at the La Salle-Greenhills. CCP beat Rizal Technological University, 21-17. Action like this will be replicated when actress Isabel Granada will lead the exhibition games on March 16 at the inauguration of the additional outdoor sports facilities of the Riviera Sports and Country Club in Silang, Cavite. JESS YUSON

Toyota Altis, Rolex watch up at 'Harris'

A TOYOTA Altis courtesy of Toyota Otis will be a hole-in-one prize in the 6th Paul Harris Cup set for tomorrow at the Tagaytay Midland Golf and Country Club. A Rolex watch will be raffled plus P100,000 worth of prizes.

Tee-off begins at 7 a.m. with the awards night slated at the Makati Artist Pavilion, J.P. Rizal on Friday, March 15. Crystal trophies will be awarded to the team and individual winners, said President-elect and overall chair Titos Almendral.

Teams will be composed of five Rotarians with the Top 3 scores counting as the team total. The tournament is sponsored by CGU Insurance and supported by Victoria Linen, Pagcor, ING Insurance, Transworld Trading Company Inc., and YKK Zipper Phils.

Trophies will be given to the champion team and the second, third and fourth placers. The individual winners in Classes A, B, C and D and second finishers will also get trophies.

The first 60 registered participants will receive a special raffle prize. "This is going to be a memorable and excellent Paul Harris Cup,"said Almendral.

Don Bosco golfest April 19

HIGH-SCHOOL class 1978 of Don Bosco Technical Institute in Makati will hold a benefit golf tournament on April 19 at Villamor.

A P1,800-ticket entitles the holder to lunch and a raffle ticket after the round. Call Benji Castañeda at 0919-633-8169,or Merlito Uy at 0919-329-0960 for details.

Reyes vs Davis tonight on IBC-13

EFREN "Bata" Reyes battles British snooker ace Steve Davis in a classic World Pool League final which will be telecast from 5:30 p.m. to 8 p.m. tonight by Viva Television over IBC-13. The telecast is sponsored by Pop Cola, Motolite, Emperador Brandy, PLDT, San Miguel Beer, McDonald's and Red Bull.

Pacquiao brod Bataan slugfest main feature

BOBBY Pacquiao, brother of world champion Manny Pacquiao, will fight Jeffrey Onate in one of the featured bouts of the Bakbakan sa Bataan on April 6 at the Peoples' Stadium.

To be hosted by Gov. Ding Roman as part of his developmental program and promoted by Jun Sarreal, the slugfest is designed to raise funds for the construction of a public library and museum in Bataan.

Dino Olivetti of Biñan, Laguna, the reigning RP super bantamweight champ, will also stake his crown against No. 1 contender Andy Alagenio from Bukidnon.

Philippine Boxing Federation lightweight Jun Longakit of Cagayan de Oro will also defend his title against No. 1 contender Ranee Ganoy of Mandaluyong.

In the curtain-raisers, up-and-coming boxers from Bataan will also see action.

Korea Island seeks to host Tyson fight

SEOUL, South Korea —South Korea's southern resort island Jeju has offered itself as a venue for the world heavyweight boxing championship match between Lennox Lewis and Mike Tyson, officials said Monday.

Organizers have been struggling to find a host city in the United States since Nevada denied Tyson the right to fight in the state after he brawled with Lewis at a news conference in January. *AP*

Caoili gains another IM norm in Italy

ARIANNE Caoili scored 5.5 points and finished 20th in the 21st Bratto International chess tournament recently held in Italy to gain another Women's International Master norm.

Caoili's impressive performance caught the attention of chess lovers in Italy, where her exploits are posted on the tournament's website, www.maskeret.com/bratto. Caoili is only waiting for the National Chess Federation of the Philippines application for her official WIM title award.

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SENADOR PRIZE

National Master Emmanuel Senador (third from left) receives the P50,000-check after winning the La Union Open Chess Championship held at the City of San Fernando from City Mayor Mary Jane C. Ortega (extreme left), assisted by Vice Mayor Nardi Valero, NCFP Secretary General Sammy Estimo and Tournament Director Joseph Dumuk.

Canlas is Cebu netfest champ

CEBU CITY—Manila's Christian Canlas started on a bright note after routing Paul Cero, 6-0, 6-2, last weekend in the Cebu City Mayor's Cup at the Sancase courts in Mabolo.

Canlas next defeated Daniel Luis Macalino of Manila, 6-4, 6-4, in the semifinals and then outlasted Aklan's Juan Felipe Mayor, 5-7, 6-3, 7-5, to win the 14-under crown.

The top-ranked Jessica Marie Lim Agra won the girls' 14-under title over Cebu's Floreza Alesna, 7-6, 4-6, 7-3, and 12-under title over La Carlota's Janicka Martina Guba, 6-0, 6-2. Agra and Sarah Jane Lim also bagged the 12-under girls doubles.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1990, the Philippines-Quezon City bowling team tallied 1061 pins to win the 8th President Suharto Cup mixed team plum in Jakarta. Also today in 1995, Rey Antoque clocked 2 hours, 28 minutes and .2 seconds to capture the 13th Philippine Airlines International Marathon at the CCP Complex.

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CLEAN LIVING

Manolo R. Iñigo

I STOOD in awe of Willie Miller last Saturday night when he sparked Batang Red Bull to a stirring 90-82 overtime victory over ill-starred RP-Hapee team in the PBA Governors' Cup by scoring the key shots that enabled the Thunder to regain the lead in a tie with Purefoods at 4-1 in the team standings.

Like my colleague Tito Talao and many other loyal followers of the Philippine Basketball Association, I agree with the view that Miller is deserving of a slot in the national training team honing for the coming Asian Games in Busan, South Korea. Why he didn't make the training pool has left many befuddled because Miller has been consistently outclassing the other point guards in this ongoing conference.

Even Red Bull coach Yeng Guiao, who does not normally praise his individual player, said, "Willie Miller right now is at par if not better than the other point guards in the national training teams."

Two years ago, the 42-year-old Guiao plucked then little-known Miller from among 57 applicants in the PBA draft to fill the gap left by an ailing Jimwell Torion, who has undergone surgery for a dislocated shoulder. In picking the 5-foot-11 Miller, Guiao said, "I'm sure he'll become one of the most dominant point guards in the pro league, stressing that the 23-year-old draftee has the making of a future star. "Miller has proven himself a consistent scorer in the NCAA, the PBL and the MBA."

The son of a Filipino mother and an American father based in Olongapo City, Miller was a former Letran standout in the National Collegiate Athletic Association who also played for Tanduay in the Philippine Basketball League and the Nueva Ecija Patriots in the Metropolitan Basketball Association.

But it was in the PBA where Miller showed his true worth. He first tantalized the fans a few months after being drafted when, in a game played in Iloilo City, he was named "Best Player of the Game" by leading Red Bull to a nerve-frazzling 79-72 victory over Barangay Ginebra behind his dazzling speed and deadly shooting from inside and out. Miller finished that game with 20 big points, six rebounds and five assists. And with a finely chiseled features, personable demeanor and a face which is handsome, Miller is much admired by his friends and respected by his foes.

"Willie has a common touch," said my nephew Jay, who is Miller's longtime buddy. "He is not flashy, but he is thoroughly friendly and he has not changed. We consider him our adopted son in Lolomboy, Bulacan."

A former PBL commissioner and three-time PBA champion coach, Guiao said he has high expectations for Miller and the team as a whole in its PBA campaign. Since winning the Commissioner's Cup last year, Red Bull is bubbling with youthful enthusiasm.

"Everyone's playing hard to win," said franchise owner George Chua of Photokina Marketing Corp. "We will strive even harder to please the fans and achieve the same feat of winning a PBA conference championship."

'We will strive even harder to please the fans and achieve the same feat of winning a PBA conference championship.'

NCA derby finals on

ANOTHER interesting night awaits cockfighting aficionados during the NCA 7-Cock Derby finals today at the air-conditioned Araneta Coliseum.

Hosted by derby luminaries Eddie Araneta, Bomboy Araneta, Peping Cojuangco and Esting Teopaco of Tarlac, tonight's cockfest offers explosive four-cock matches featuring the very best fighting cocks of the country's foremost cocker-breeders.

Among the entries to watch are King Cobra of the unsinkable James Chiongbian, R&B Farm of Rep. Claude Bautista and Boyboy Roa, Thunderbird-Firefly I and II of Big Dome owner Nenè Araneta, Cat Tarzan of Pampanga, Firefly-Thunderbird 8 and 13 of the Firefly Group; Combine Harvester of Johnny Jalandoni, RT 114 Mapalad II of Alex and Gerry Escalona, Binangonan SMV of three-time Rizal Gov. Ito Ynares, LCC Mandaluyong Coliseum International, Spencer Winslet of recent World Slasher champion Dicky Lim, Phoenix of Mario Villamor and Liza Galore of derby hosts Eddie and Bomboy Araneta.

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Guardo routs Aspac, nears final

Games Today
4 p.m.—Aspac Texmaco Indonesia vs Petronas Malaysia
5:30 p.m.—Guardo-M. Lhuillier vs Tong Whye Singapore

By Roy Luarca

CEBU CITY—The Philippines' Guardo-M. Lhuillier shut out the passing lanes and clogged the shaded lane to rout Aspac Texmaco Indonesia, 105-80, yesterday and move within a win of clinching a final slot in the Southeast Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) Champion's Cup at the Cebu Coliseum here.

It was the second straight win for RP Guardo-M. Lhuillier, giving it a share of the lead with RP-Spring Cooking Oil in the five-team, four-nation field.

RP-Spring Cooking Oil dumped Tong Whye Singapore, 97-81, Monday night in the tournament sponsored by Osaka Iridology, Accel, the national team official outfitter; Burlington socks, Molten balls, YKL Color, Absolute distilled water and PCSO.

The Cooking Oil Experts, finding little need for Bobby Parks and Hamsa Jihad against the Singaporeans, will regain the top spot and secure the first final slot if they beat Petronas Malaysia in the second game being held at presstime.

The Indons actually held the Filipinos at bay, 59-54, as Riko Hantono and Suko Daryono canned a triple each, but crumbled when RP Guardo-M. Lhuillier coach Yayoy Alcoseba ordered his wards to harass the ballcarrier and double-team import Joe Hooks.

The ploy worked and the Filipinos, behind Maui Huelar, Bong Marata, Jerry Jaca and Aldrin Ocanada dropped a crippling 23-4 salvo to post their biggest edge at 84-58 starting the fourth quarter.

With the 6-foot-9 Hooks barreling his way, the Indons came to within 15 points, but Marata and Jaca quickly quelled the rally with a 7-point cluster, 93-71, time down to 4 minutes and 17 seconds.

Knowing the futility of further struggle, the Indons pulled out Hooks and fellow NBA veteran Khalid Reeves to give their locals exposure.

"We harassed their ballcarriers because we observed that their forwards don't penetrate and just shoot from afar," said Alcoseba.

Scores:

RP GUARDO-M. LHUILLIER 105— Marata 22, Ocanada 14, Maglasang 14, Jaca 13, Reyes 8, Smith 6, White 6, Enriquez 6, Cantona 5, Almonte 2.

ASPAC TEXMACO INDONESIA 80— Khalid 28, Hooks 18, Riko 15, Soku 6, Budi 5, Triadnyana 4, Chandra 4.

Halftime: 51-48

Sta. Lucia stops Selecta

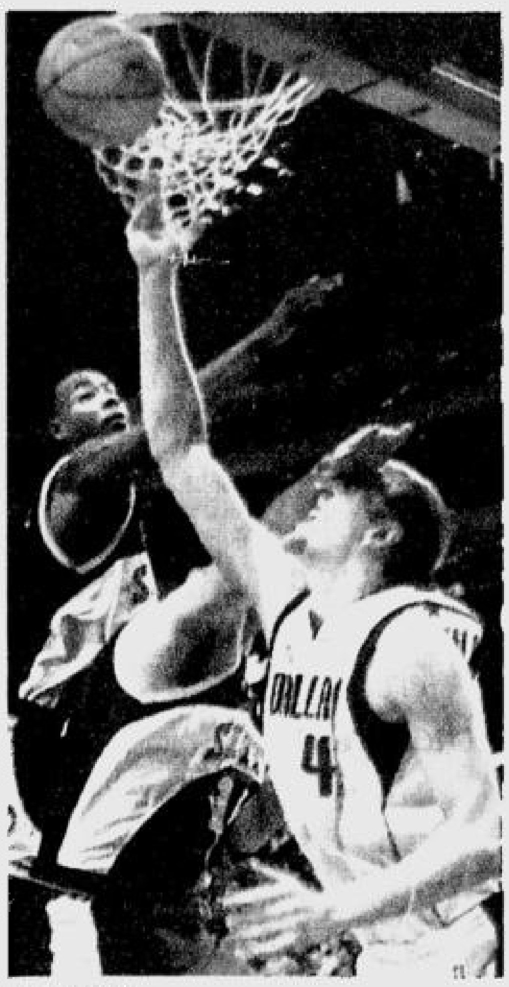
GAME TOMORROW (Makati Coliseum)
6 p.m.—San Miguel vs Purefoods

STA. LUCIA Realty scored a come-from-behind 61-55 victory over RP-Selecta last night in the PBA Governors Cup at the Philsports Arena.

Mark Davis led the Realtors' attack with 25 points against the Nationals, who lost steam in the homestretch.

It was Sta. Lucia's second win in five outings, while RP-Selecta absorbed its fifth straight loss for a 1-5 record.

Trailing by 14 at the half, 39-25, the Realtors took command when the Nationals got hobbled by turnovers.



FOULED!
Dallas Mavericks' Dirk Nowitzki (41) is fouled under the basket by Seattle Supersonics Predrag Drobnjak (14) as teammate Rashad Lewis (left) defends during their NBA game yesterday. Dallas won, 199-108. Other results: Boston 104, Washington 99; Atlanta 121, Golden State 96; Memphis 79, Utah 78; L.A. Clippers 108, Minnesota 99; Sacramento 107, Chicago 103; San Antonio 93, Denver 78. AP

POC accepting scholarships for athletes—Dayrit

By Marc Anthony Reyes

NATIONAL athletes now have more chances to chase their Olympic dreams.

The International Olympic Solidarity made that possible recently when it offered to fund the training of deserving Filipino athletes and improve on their chances of qualifying and eventually winning in the 2004 Athens Olympics.

Philippine Olympic Committee president Celso Dayrit yesterday said the POC is now accepting applicants for training scholarships of athletes who will be endorsed by their respective national sports associations.

"Funding will be provided for the selected athletes to train here and abroad on an extended basis which may start as early as August this year," said Dayrit.

He added that the athletes who will eventually qualify in the Olympics will then be entitled to a continuing support until July 2004 to further improve on their chances in the Olympics.

The POC will select and endorse athletes who carry Olympic chances but it was the Olympic Solidarity, in consultation with the respective international federations, that will make the final approval.

However, Dayrit said that the nine athletes who had earlier availed of the Olympic Solidarity funding for the Busan Asian Games are no longer qualified for the program.

"It is part of the POC's direct involvement in the development of our athletes to ensure better performance in international competitions," said Dayrit, who asked NSA heads to submit their endorsements not later than April 15.

The POC chief added that the applicants will be interviewed by a POC designated panel on May and that there is no limit in the number of athlete-scholars per country.

Marave wins 2nd kart run

CARMONA, Cavite—Defending champion and Futura Racing ace driver Pepon Marave scored his second consecutive victory Sunday in the second leg of the 2002 Shell Karting Super Series of the Carmona Circuit Philippines here.

Marave, seeking a historic third crown, faced a tough fight in the early going but everything went smooth midway into the race for him.

He finished the 20-lap race in 18:37.114 to rule the premiere Formula-A class of this nine-leg series sponsored by Pilipinas Shell, Casino Filipino, Bridgestone, ZED, Nokia and Coca-Cola Bottlers.

Tuason Racing Project's Mike Tuason, proving true to his vow, engaged Marave in a neck-and-neck battle early in the race and was about to overtake the latter when his engine developed trouble on the eighth lap.

Two GP-Kart Plaza karters—Jinky Cabilinan and Manny Sy—tried to challenge Marave in the ensuing play. But Marave proved too tough to beat as Cabilinan and Sy wound up second and third, docking 18:39.593 and 18:42.569, respectively.

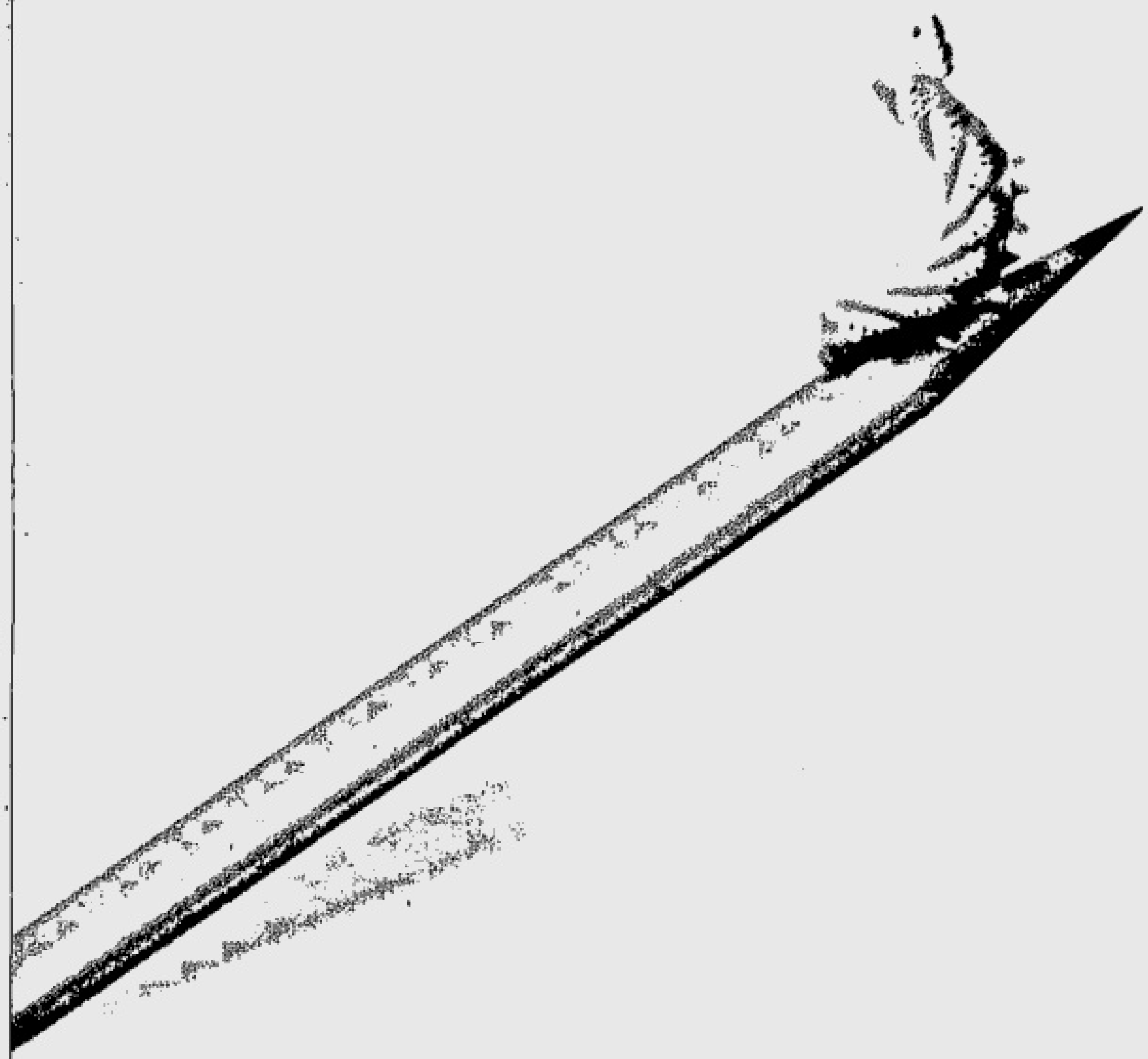
Manila's word wizards join Greenhills scrabble

METRO Manila's leading word wizards see action in the Word Power Scrabble Tournament on March 17, 10 a.m., at the Greenhills Chess Plaza, Greenhills Shopping Center in San Juan, Metro Manila.

The champion in the PCSO-sponsored tournament will pocket P5,000 and runner-up P3,000 plus trophy. The third to fifth placers will also earn cash prizes.

This will be a tune-up battle for the National Open Scrabble Championships in May and June organized by Sports Activities Inc. in coordination with the Scrabble Association of the Philippines and Mabuhay Educational Center.

For other details, call Boy Rabe at 872-78-20 or 872-9002.



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- Bare Eye: RP team might have to cram for final exams /A26

METRO

Editor Louie C. Camino

- Kiko wants guidelines on prison videoke /A26
- More cops to watch Manila malls /A26

Katipuneros' kin oppose transfer of Bonifacio monument

By Jerome Aning

RELATIVES and descendants of heroes who fought in the 1896 Philippine Revolution are opposing the plan of the Caloocan City government to move the monument of Andres Bonifacio to Tala in northern Caloocan to give way to the linking of the Light Rail Transit and the Metro Rail Transit.

But the group called Kaanak 1896 is amenable to alternative plans of Caloocan City Mayor Rey Malonzo and the National Historical Institute to convert the Monumento area into a public park. Kaanak 1896 is an association of relatives and descendents of statesmen, and men and women who fought in the Philippine revolution against Spain, which Bonifacio led. Former congresswoman Sandy Ocampo is head of the association.

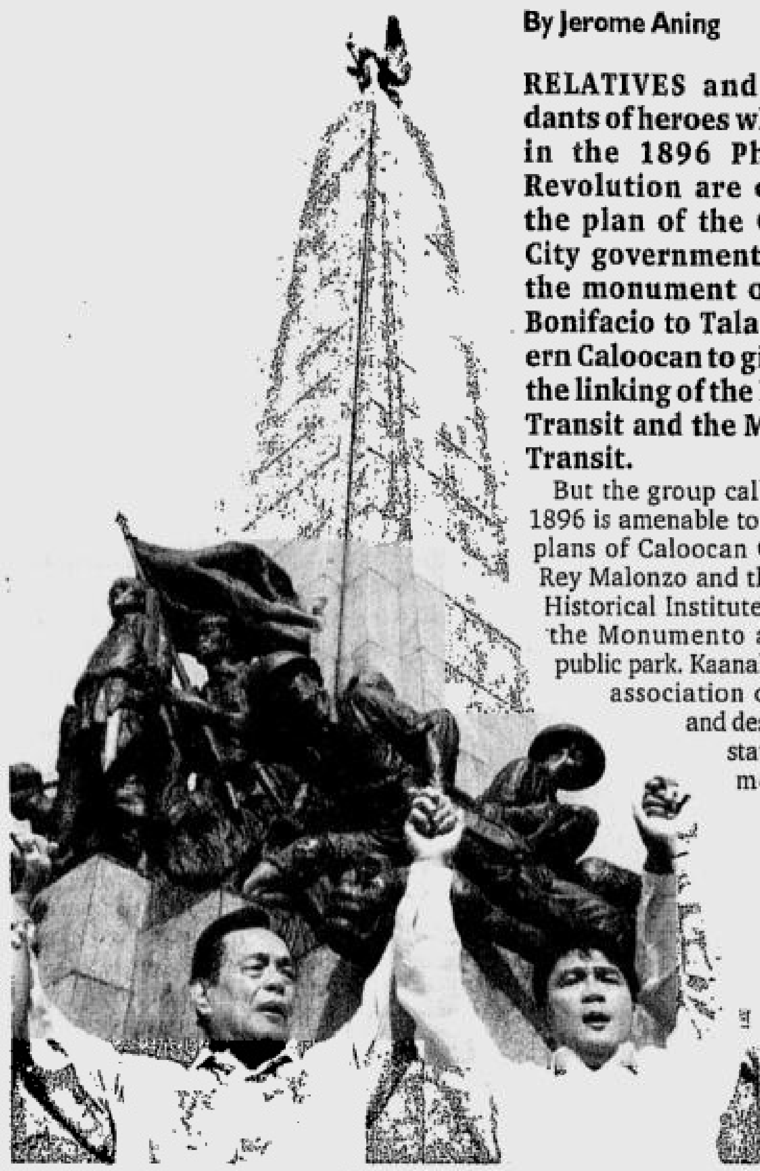
With proper development planning, Monumento could be transformed into Caloocan's first tourist spot, Kaanak 1896 spokesperson Tina Testa told the INQUIRER in a phone interview.

Among the various development plans brought up is the construction of an elevated structure around the monument to contain the connecting railway and a pedestrian walkway.

The elevated structure would help people "get a closer look at the monument and appreciate its wonders," according to Kaanak.

Access to the monument is difficult because it is located on a busy rotunda formed by the intersection of Rizal Avenue, Edsa, MacArthur Highway and Samson Road.

KATIPUNERO'S KIN/ A26



Moving the Bonifacio Monument will be desecration, according to descendants of the Katipunan members. Posing at the monument in a file photo is Caloocan Mayor Rey Malonzo (right, with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel during a Bonifacio Day rite), who wants the transfer. EDWIN BACASMAS

GMA 7 suspends SVP for 'loss of trust'

By Leah Salterio

BARREIRO

GMA 7 executive Roberto "Bobby" Barreiro has been suspended as senior vice president of the TV Group of GMA Network and president and as chief operating officer of GMA Marketing.

GMA network president, chief executive officer and GMA marketing chair and CEO Felipe L. Gozon announced the suspension yesterday.

In a statement, Gozon said the suspension stemmed from his "loss of trust and confidence" in Barreiro. But Gozon did not elaborate on the charges that led to Barreiro's suspension.

Barreiro said he was saddened by the suspension, which took effect at 12:15 p.m. on March 11.

"They suspended me pending resolution of the case," Barreiro told the INQUIRER in a phone interview. "They faxed copies to news rooms and even to the advertising agencies in an obvious attempt to tarnish my reputation. If there's anything I've protected all these years, it's my name because I carry the legacy of my father."

Barreiro is the son of the late Antonio Barreiro, one of the pillars of Philippine broadcasting and also a former executive of GMA 7.

"My father, my brothers and I have all been in broadcasting," said Barreiro.

Gozon said that in order not to disrupt the operations of the groups that Barreiro headed, Manuel P. Quioge, formerly COO of Studio 23, was temporarily appointed OIC of the Office of the President/COO of GMA Marketing.

GMA Network executive vice president and COO Jimmy Duavit will supervise the TV Entertainment Department, according to Gozon's statement.

News and Public Affairs will be under the direct supervision of Gozon.

The INQUIRER learned from a GMA 7 insider that a number of employees are worried about their fate in the network. The source said several employees in the marketing and TV departments cried after learning about Barreiro's suspension and Quioge's appointment.

Barreiro denied that he would soon move to ABC 5, although he admitted he is now contemplating some offers.

"I've been receiving calls about employment opportunities because those who know me also

GMA 7 SUSPENDS/ A26

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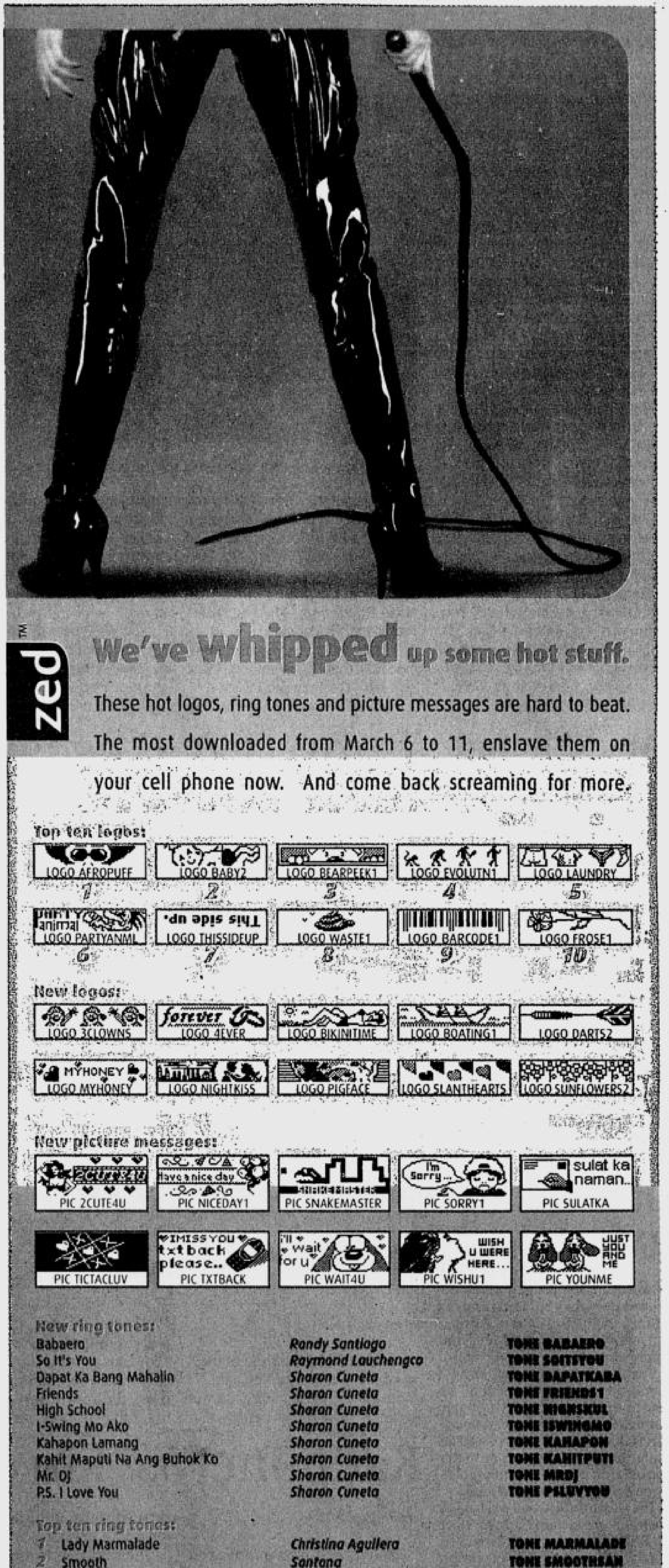

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CALTEX What Drives You

More cops to watch Manila malls

By Jerome Aning

MEMBERS of Manila's Finest may soon be doubling as "security guards" to protect shoppers and tourists in the city's malls and shopping centers.

Mayor Lito Atienza has already ordered the deployment of more policemen to secure shopping malls and department stores in the city.

Atienza last Monday presided over a conference attended by mall managers, their security chiefs and Western Police District officials at City Hall. Among the subjects discussed during the meeting were ways to enhance security in shopping centers.

"I want a highly visible police presence," Atienza told WPD director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. "I don't want cops who just stand around. They should make sure that order is maintained at all times and render assistance when necessary."

The mayor also asked the WPD chief to ensure that the policemen assigned to the mall are fully briefed on their responsibilities.

He said mall security officers could call his office, the commander of the nearest police station, the WPD special operations group or the anti-littering task force "if (they) encounter any problems or need further assistance."

ATIENZA meets with managers and security officers of Manila malls.

Among those who attended the conference were the managers and security officers of Harrison Plaza, Tutuban Center, SM Manila, Robinson's Place, Divisoria Mall, Ever Gotesco, Manila City Hall, Plaza Fair, Makro, Times Plaza and Masagana.

The city's 11 station commanders and other high-ranking police officials accompanied Pasinos.

The mall owners welcomed the deployment of more policemen, which they said would augment their security force and assist in maintaining order among shoppers and facilitating the flow of traffic on streets leading to the malls.

The WPD usually dispatches at least two policemen per mall, depending on the availability of personnel. The police team usually set up an assistance center for customers and patrol mall premises.

Last month, Atienza fumed over the increasing number of foreigners who fell prey to thieves, extortionists and scam artists in the city's tourist district.

He admonished WPD officials for "sleeping on the job" and instructed them to "do something drastic" to curb the rising crime rate in the city.

Seaman loses cell phone in Harrison Plaza sting

By Philip C. Tubeza

INSTEAD of having a good time, a 25-year-old seaman lost his cellular phone to a gay member of a "budol-budol" gang after the latter picked him up and his three friends at the Harrison Plaza mall in Malate, Manila.

The seaman, a resident of Malate, said the gay man took his Nokia 3310 cellular phone worth P5,000, after enticing him and his friends with P150,000, according to a report of the Western Police District's General Assignment Section.

The P150,000 turned out to be bits of paper in an envelope.

The suspect introduced himself as Nino Leong, said the seaman, who described him as 5-foot-5 in height, of medium build, and sporting a "skinhead" haircut.

Police said the seaman and his friends were window shopping at the Harrison Plaza when the gay man approached them and befriended them. The stranger convinced them to have a drink with him at the Ali Mall in Cubao, Quezon City, the victim said.

Apparently to entice them, the gay man went to a Banco de Oro branch "to withdraw P150,000 for his lending business," police said. When he came out of the bank, the four men saw him carrying an envelope "containing the money," which the man gave to one of the seaman's friends.

They boarded a taxi to Cubao. During the ride, the stranger borrowed the seaman's cell phone saying he needed to call his secretary, police said. After making the call, he said he had to meet somebody at the SM Centerpoint in Sta. Mesa.

So the group went to the mall. The stranger, still holding the seaman's cell phone, went to the second floor, leaving the seaman and his friends on the first floor, police said. That was the last time the four men saw him.

After two hours, the victim and his friends decided to open the culprit's envelope of "cash." They were surprised to see that the P150,000 the gay man bragged about was only bits of paper cut to the size of peso bills.

'Mr. X' found unconscious in Parañaque

AN UNIDENTIFIED man found unconscious in Parañaque City is waiting for relatives in the emergency room of the San Juan de Dios Hospital on Roxas Boulevard in Pasay City.

The unconscious man, whom hospital authorities identified only as "Mr. X," was found by two security guards at tollway compound on the Coastal Road in Parañaque just before midnight on March 10, said Mila Ancheta, the hospital's PRO.

Ancheta described the man as about 5 feet tall, between 30 and 40 years old, dark, balding, and of medium build. He was wearing grey shorts, a grey striped T-shirt and red rubber sandals, she added.

Outstanding PNU alumni

NOMINATIONS are now being accepted for the 10 outstanding alumni of the Philippine Normal University, couple awardees and family awardees.

The nominations, together with supporting documents, should be sent to the office of the Philippine Normal University Alumni Association on San Marcelino Street corner Ayala Boulevard, Ermita, not later than March 15, said Dr. Pedro A. Ramos, awards committee chair.

The alumni association will hold its general homecoming on April 28 at the PNU grounds on Taft Avenue in Manila. The awards will highlight the homecoming whose theme is "The Filipino Teachers' World View: The PNUAA Advocacy for Excellence."

Jubilarians in the homecoming are the graduates of 1942 (diamond), 1952 (golden) and 1977 (silver). Inquiries may be addressed to Ms Teresa R. Cordero, PNUAA executive secretary, at 524-38-21 and 524-07-49.

Baby, 'yaya' escape Rockwell kidnap try

By Alcuin Papa

A NANNY'S presence of mind saved her and her 1-year-8-month-old ward from being kidnapped after a stroll at a shopping mall in Makati City.

Teresita Madero, 39, a resident of Mauban Street, Barangay Manresa, Quezon City, screamed for help, preventing four unidentified men from abducting her ward, Kyla Gibson, of Bel-Air, Makati City, on Monday.

Madero told police she and Kyla went strolling inside the Power Plant in Rockwell Center in Barangay Poblacion, Makati, said Supt. Jose Salido, Chief of the Makati City Police Criminal Investigation Division.

They were on their way home and were on board their silver Toyota Corolla when the men blocked the vehicle's path and tried to open its doors at 6:20 p.m., said PO3 Jovenal Barbosa.

But Madero managed to open a window of the car and started to scream for help, police said. Her screams apparently panicked the suspects, who fled, police said.

Madero brought the child to a nearby police station.

Police said they were still investigating the kidnapping attempt.

Drunken trader kills woman in Marikina

MICHAEL Capinpin was drunk when he squeezed off a few rounds from his .45-caliber pistol in Marikina City early Sunday morning.

He did not know that by the time he was through, he had mortally shot Lydia Letre, who was strolling by the river bank, police said.

Letre, 46, a native of Pangasinan and a temporary resident of Barangay Malanday, Marikina City, was shot in the right side of the body and was pronounced dead at the Amang Rodriguez Medical Center.

Hours later, police arrested Capinpin at his residence on Malakas Street, Teachers Village, Diliman, Quezon City.

According to SPO1 Arnel Manuel, Marikina City investigator, Capinpin was under the influence of liquor when he came out of the East Riverside Music Bar and fired his gun at the parking lot near the Riverbank Center about 3 a.m.

Manuel said the suspect apparently emptied the magazine of his pistol before he left the parking area. He added the suspect probably did not know that he had hit the victim who was taking a walk in the area.

Manuel later learned that Capinpin got into a fight at the bar hours earlier. The suspect, who was a regular at the bar, allegedly poked his gun at another guest, Raymond Esorena. *Nelson F. Flores*

GMA 7 suspends SVP . . .

From page A25

know that I maintain the highest standard of integrity," he said.

He added he is caught in the battle of the GMA owners.

"I'm just amazed at what they will do to destroy me," he said. "The bosses are giving me a hard time. They're making it appear that I did something wrong, but my conscience is clear. The GMA that I know is not capable of doing this to me."

He said the case is still in the investigation stage.

"They haven't proven anything against me," he said. "But it's like I committed a crime. There is an obvious attempt to discredit me."

According to Gozon's statement, Barreiro will continue to receive his pay until the case is resolved.

Katipuneros' kin oppose . . .

From page A25

Earlier, Malonzo announced plans of transferring the monument to Tala in northern Caloocan, site of a government-run leprosarium and urban poor settlement.

"We will not allow the transfer of the monument, as this is tantamount to desecration," said the Kaanak spokesperson. "It's like throwing the Bonifacio monument into the trash can."

She said that if the proposed move would push through, "the general public would not get to see the monument anymore, except perhaps the lepers and squatters."

Relocating the monument was "a narrow-minded proposal in the first place," considering that the erection of the monument was authorized by public acts in 1918 and 1929 to honor Bonifacio for his contributions to the birth of the nation, Kaanak said.

Urban planners "do not have a business in tinkering with historical and cultural places" without authorization from the NHI, it said.

It said Malonzo should be concentrating on removing the giant movie and advertisement billboards that surround the monument and clearing up the daily heavy traffic congestion in the area.

A series of consultations among officials of the NHI, Caloocan, MRT, and the tourism and transportation departments have been set to resolve the controversy.

Last week, Sen. Blas Ople opposed the relocation and recommended that the issue be presented for national debate.

Kiko wants guidelines on prison videoke

By Christian V. Esguerra

"THE ROAD to hell is paved with good intentions," Sen. Francisco "Kiko" Pangilinan said as he admonished prison officials for installing videoke machines at the New Bilibid Prisons in Muntinlupa.

In a statement sent to the Inquirer, Pangilinan asked prison officials to implement guidelines governing the use of these machines.

In a Senate inquiry on Monday, NBP director Supt. Gregorio Agaloos admitted he and his men allowed the installation of seven videoke machines for the inmates at the minimum, medium, and maximum security compounds. Agaloos said the machines are available between 6 a.m. and 6 p.m.

Ricardo Macala, chief of the Bureau of Corrections, earlier claimed the machines were primarily aimed at providing inmates with additional income and recreation.

But Pangilinan warned that despite the "good intentions" of prison officials, some government men might be profiting from these "business ventures."

The Senate committee on justice and human rights, headed by Pangilinan, and the committee on public order, chaired by Sen. Robert Barbers, are conducting a joint inquiry into the alleged irregularities at the NBP.

They are investigating reports that prison officials were extending special treatment to wealthy inmates in exchange for cash and that the videoke bars doubled as nightclubs complete with guest relations officers.

RP team might have to cram for final exams

BARE EYE

Recah Trinidad

JAPAN is beatable. That's the word from native detectives who were sent to Tokyo recently on a basketball spy mission.

Beatable. That's easy to believe. Japanese players, after all, have been regarded as too regimented, even awkward, and therefore limited even by not-too-lofty Pinoy basketball standards.

There's this noble mission to regain the Asian Games basketball crown being spearheaded by the Philippine Basketball Association and its hardworking commissioner, Jun Bernardino.

In fact, a second spying mission is scheduled shortly.

Next time, the venue will be Seoul where some of the world's sharpest, most fearsome outside gunners, heirs to the great Shin Dong Pa, are being developed and perfected in enviable fashion.

After the Koreans, spy eyes will focus on the mighty Chinese, who at last count have already elevated at least two national cagers to the NBA.

* * *

Japan can be beaten.

Korea, you can bet, will likewise be rated as containable.

And China? That, of course, is a totally different problem that can't be solved by plain speculation.

The impact of the Chinese cagers, since their return to the Asian battleground, has defied mathematics and a few other limp factors.

The Great Wall dribblers have loomed invincible since topping the Asian Basketball Confederation championship in Bangkok in 1975.

For the record, their great reign was disrupted only once after they lost the ABC crown to South Korea.

Last year, the Chinese were also tripped right in their home court by the Lebanese national team in a fight-marred game. China, however, regrouped and shamed Lebanon in the yours-or-mine finale to again send the message: The Mainland Team is still the basketball king in the whole Asian continent.

* * *

Here's the score.

There's a shaky consensus among a group of basketball leaders here, both in the pro and amateur backyards, that China could be beaten—on an off-day.

As evidenced by its defeat against Lebanon last year, the Chinese could indeed be tripped.

But, whether we like it or not, the Chinese—on or off—could be upset, shocked or jolted only by a team that has prepared properly, and very, very hard, for the mission.

Sorry, but knowing the Chinese, it's very unlikely they would be caught napping in Pusan, where the Korean team will persistently wait in ambush.

You guessed it. If there's one team that could upset the Chinese during the Asiad, it should be the host team.

Next to South Korea comes Lebanon.

* * *

The Philippines? At the rate things are shaping up here at home, the still-to-be-formed RP national basketball squad could come in only as a third possible beater of the might China team.

The odds, not to mention the familiarity of both South Korea and Lebanon with the amateur rules, mainly the utilization of the poisonous zone defense, puts RP as only a third possible tripper of the defending champions.

Yes, once action starts in the Pusan Asiad in September, it would no longer be matter of what the Pinoy scouts had seen.

It would boil down to one thing: preparation.

Oh, forget that the Filipino line-up would look and sound anything but Filipino with the looming inclusion of un-Pinoy characters in the national squad like Davon Harp, Mike Pinnissi, Andy Seigle, Erik Menk who, by the look of things, could make Juan de la Cruz extinct in the local pro circuit.

There's the great danger of the RP squad looking and sounding like the national mongrel team.

But the abominable sight and sound of the national team composition, it seems, could not be helped given the seemingly impossible task in Pusan.

* * *

They are right on track, everything going on as planned.

That's the latest from the PBA on the national basketball team preparations.

It would have done a lot of wonders if Ron Jacobs, who suffered a massive stroke and was reluctantly replaced by Jong Uichico, has recovered.

The PBA, however, reported that the best they could get from Jacobs, who's reportedly being trained to use the wheelchair, are hand signals.

Unfortunately for coach Jong Uichico, the best he has is an inkling of how Jacobs did it in the past over the Chinese.

For the record, Jacobs suffered a stroke without having completed the blueprint for the Asiad campaign.

As things look today, the two teams of aspirants, Selecta and Hapee, whether we like it or not, are still groping to adapt to the zone.

The RP national squad will be formally completed in time for the second PBA conference. Which means the RP team will be competing in the Asian Games only after seeing action in one full conference here.

Foreign competition has been ruled out.

The PBA is indeed doing its best. It's giving everything for the Asiad campaign.

Despite this, however, there's a great danger of the RP national team taking the finals in Pusan after having prepared only for the mid-term exams.

It's very likely they'll again be forced to cram.

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1	RESERVE
2	RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
(Sta. Rosa Laguna) tel (049) 534.2185 / 534.2198

1	GOT 2 BELIVE
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 (DTS)	D-TOX

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7383

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DTS)	LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
4	D-TOX

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 (DTS)	D-TOX
4	LORD OF THE RINGS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
(Urdaneta) tel(075) 568.6771

1	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	
4	

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
(Tarlac) tel(045) 982.1729

1	GOT 2 BELIEVE
2	ALI
3 (DOLBY)	SHALLOW HAL
4 (DTS)	RIDING IN CAR

Lianas Cinema
(Alabang) tel 850.1276

1 (SDDS)	RESERVE
2	EVA
3	BIBINGKA
4 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Lianas MovieCity
(Calamba) tel (049) 545.7202

1 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS)	D-TOX
4	ESKANDALOSA
5	LORD OF THE RINGS

Olivarez Tri-Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.8883

1	D-TOX
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	ESKANDALOSA

Olivarez Los Baños
tel (049) 249-2558

1	D-TOX
2	WE WERE SOLDIERS
3	ESKANDALOSA

Olivarez Tagaytay
tel (046) 413.0311

1	
2	
3	

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1	
2	
3	

Cabuyao
(Laguna City) tel (049) 531.4808

1 (DTS)	RESERVE
2 (DTS)	ESKANDALOSA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1	RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1	ESKANDALOSA
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1	ALI
2	13 GHOSTS
3	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4	ESKANDALOSA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX)	13 GHOSTS
2	GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS)	ALI
4	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

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ADVANCED SCREENING THX DOLBY DIGITAL dts SDDS

PREMIERE THX
NOW SHOWING
THE MOTHER OF ALL VAMPIRES
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
ALL SHE WANTS IS HELL ON EARTH
CMG INTERNATIONAL

MOVIEWORLD CINEMAS

NOW SHOWING

Galleria
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633- 7641 loc. 279

1 THX	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	D- TOX
4	THE SHIPPING NEWS
5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS
7	SHALLOW HAL
8	GOT TO BELIEVE
9	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
10	BEAUTIFUL MIND

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	THE SHIPPING NEWS
3	D- TOX
4	GOT TO BELIEVE
5	THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS
6	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
7	WE WERE SOLDIERS

Metro East -
Marcos hway 682- 8193 / 8280

1	D- TOX
2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3	THE SHIPPING NEWS
4	BEAUTIFUL MIND
5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
7	GOT 2 BELIEVE
8	13 GHOSTS

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2	BEAUTIFUL MIND
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE
4	13 GHOSTS
5	WE WERE SOLDIERS
6	D- TOX
7	THE SHIPPING NEWS
8	SHALLOW HAL

Imus
471- 8188 / 875- 3838

1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
2	EVA
3	D- TOX
4	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5	THE SHIPPING NEWS
6	GOT 2 BELIEVE

Bacolod
441- 0453 / 0459

1	13 GHOSTS
2	SHALLOW HAL
3	GOT 2 BELIEVE
4	BEAUTIFUL MIND
5	MARSHALL DICK
6	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

Iloilo
336- 8077 - 78

1	13 GHOSTS
2	BEAUTIFUL MIND
3	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4	MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
5	ESKANDALOSA
6	THE OTHERS

Star Mills-
Sn. Fernando, Pamp. 875- 1927 961- 5303

1	13 GHOSTS
2	WE WERE SOLDIESRS
3	ESKANDALOSA
4	ALI
5	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
6	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

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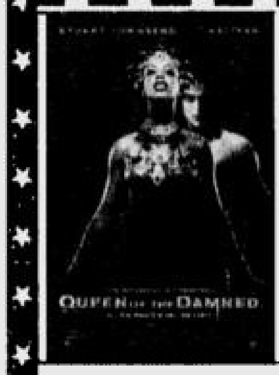

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New Pinikpikan album lands on world music charts

"ATAS," Pinikpikan's second album, went to No. 5 in the European world music charts, according to Africa-Iwalewa's Reader's Charts, which tracks listeners' hits on the Internet.

This was the third month the album was in the top 20 on the European charts, having entered the list at No. 12 in November 2001.

In December, the album zoomed to No. 5 and in January 2002, Atas was at No. 18 of the Internet's musical favorites in Europe.

The write-up on the group in the Africa-Iwalewa webpage says:

"The band 'Pinikpikan' derives it's name from a Philippine chicken dish and is not really a 'band' in the sense of the word, but rather a collaboration of amateurs and professionals who get together here and there, in different places in the Philippines, made up of 7,000 islands, to exchange and fuse musical ideas.

"What results is more than worth listening to. Elements of traditional music, played on the two-stringed lute called *kuglong*, different sounds of bamboo instruments like the *tungatong* and the metal gongs called *kulintang* blend with the unrestrained sounds of the rock guitar of mastermind Sammy Asuncion, who took up the spirit of the Pinikpikan movement and is its musical director.

"The spontaneity of the forms of expression capture even the listeners who are oriented toward western music and even those into the pop music scene."

"Atas" (Mission) has won five awards from the composers' group Katha, including best album of the year.

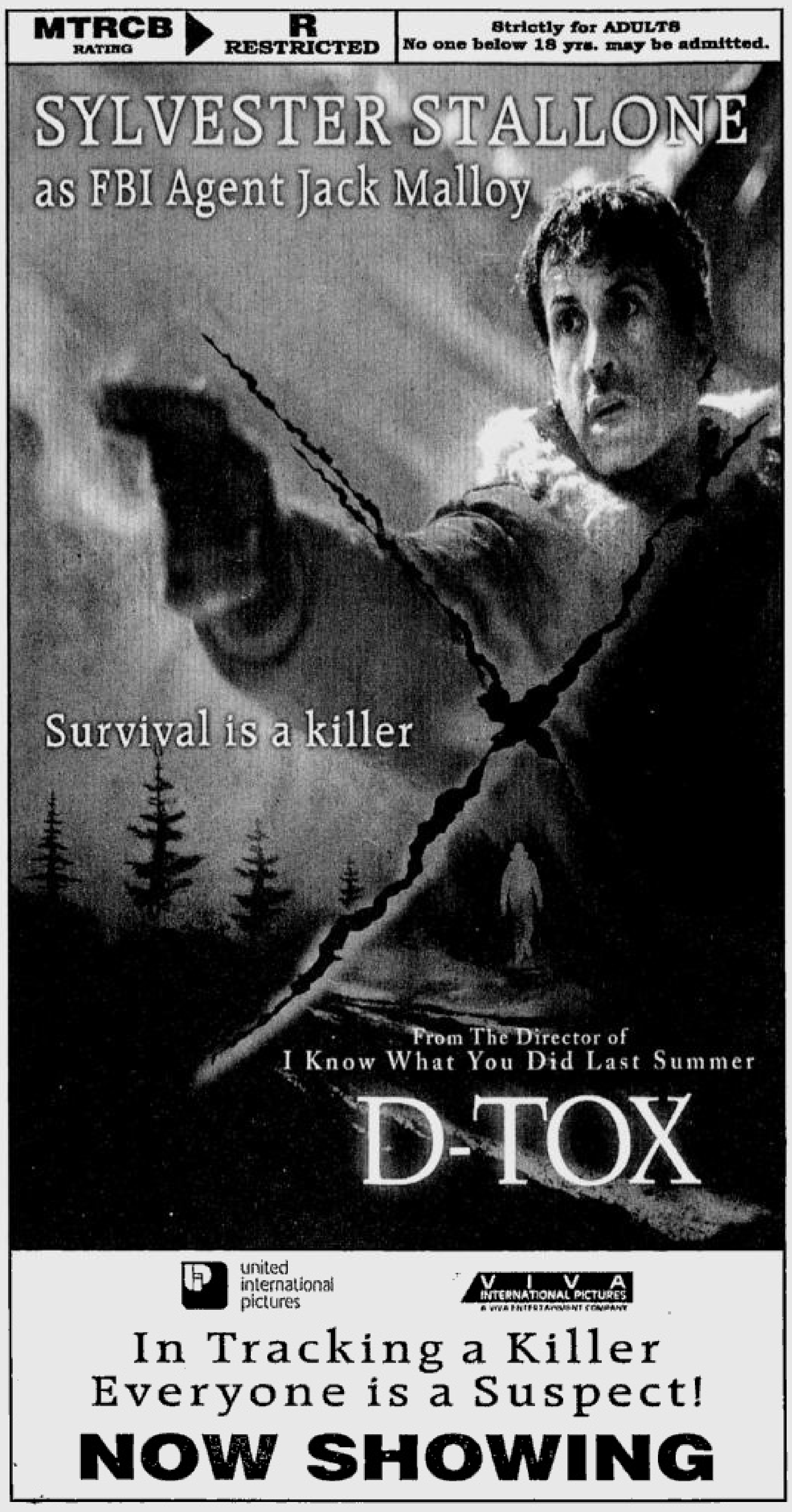
Asuncion, late of Spy, local musical and mystical icons Grace Nono and Bob Aves and other name Pinoy musicians make up the group.

The African Charts may be accessed at http://www.weltmusik.de/iwalewa/charts and albums may be ordered through the site.

Aside from album of the year from Katha, Pinikpikan also won for best song, best instrumental, best world performance and best world song.

THEATER MOVIE GUIDE

ARANETA CENTER THEATERS 911-3101	
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-1	GOT 2 BELIEVE IN MAGIC
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	EBE LASON KAY ADAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMMED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	D - TOX
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SHIPPING NEWS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BIBINGKA
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	
MANILA	
EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ODEON-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	ESKANDALOSA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE / AMERICAN PIE 2
QUEZON CITY	
ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ESKANDALOSA
REMAR	ESKANDALOSA
REMAR-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA	
A	BIBINGKA
B	EVA LASON KAY ADAN
C	
MANDALUYONG CITY	
SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-2	EIGA SAI FILM FESTIVAL
CAINTA RIZAL	
STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
CINEMA-2	ESKANDALOSA
CINEMA-3	BIBINGKA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	EVA
CINEMA-8	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	D TOX
CINEMA-12	SHIPPING NEWS
CINEMA-14	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-15	BEAUTIFUL MIND
LORES	
CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED
POWER PLANT CINEMA	
CINEMA-1	D-TOX
CINEMA-2	ROYAL TENENBAUMS
CINEMA-3	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-4	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-5	SHIPPING NEWS
CINEMA-6	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
UNIWIDE METROMALL	
(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	
UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL	
(PARAÑAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
CINEMA-4	ALAMID


MTRCB RATING ▶ R RESTRICTED Strictly for ADULTS No one below 18 yrs. may be admitted.

SYLVESTER STALLONE
as FBI Agent Jack Malloy

Survival is a killer

From The Director of
I Know What You Did Last Summer

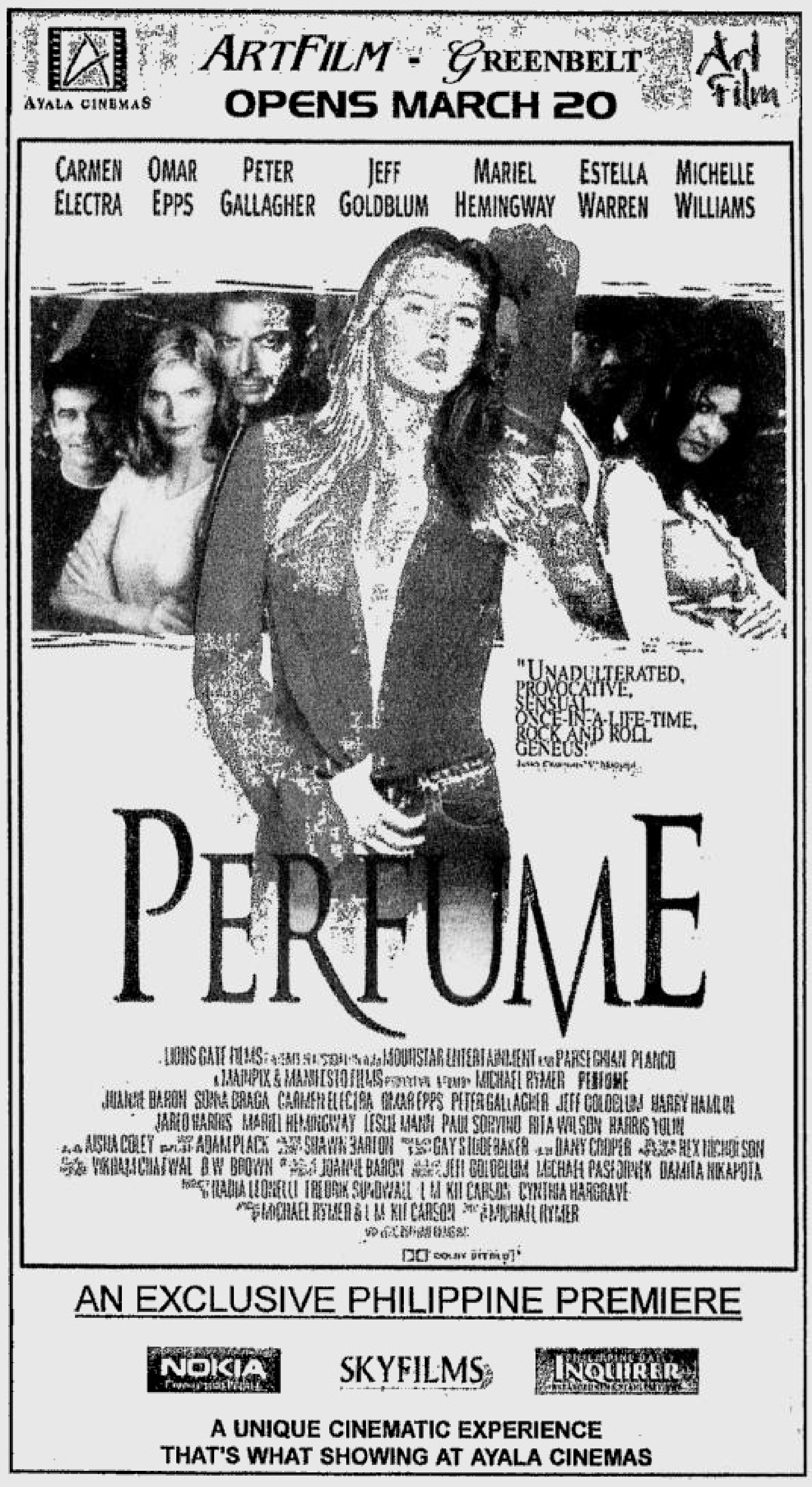
D-TOX

united international pictures

VIVA INTERNATIONAL PICTURES
A VIVA ENTERTAINMENT COMPANY

In Tracking a Killer
Everyone is a Suspect!

NOW SHOWING


AYALA CINEMAS

ARTFILM - GREENBELT
OPENS MARCH 20

Art Film

CARMEN ELECTRA OMAR EPPS PETER GALLAGHER JEFF GOLDBLUM MARIEL HEMINGWAY ESTELLA WARREN MICHELLE WILLIAMS

"UNADULTERATED, PROVOCATIVE, SENSUAL, ONCE-IN-A-LIFE-TIME, ROCK AND ROLL GENEUS!"

PERFUME

LIONS GATE FILMS ... MOONSTAR ENTERTAINMENT ... PARSEGHIAN PLANCO ... MICHAEL RYMER PERFUME
JOANNE BARON SONIA BRAGA CARMEN ELECTRA OMAR EPPS PETER GALLAGHER JEFF GOLDBLUM HARRY HAMLIN
JARED HARRIS MARIEL HEMINGWAY LESLIE MANN PAUL SORVINO RITA WILSON HARRIS YULIN
AISHA COLEY ADAM PLACK SHAWN BARTON GAY STUDEBAKER DANY COOPER REX NICHOLSON
VIKRAM CHATWAL D.W. BROWN JOANNE BARON JEFF GOLDBLUM MICHAEL PASTORNEK DAMITA NIKAPOTA
NADIA LEONELLI FREDRIK SUNDWALL L.M. KIT CARSON CYNTHIA HARGRAVE
MICHAEL RYMER & L.M. KIT CARSON MICHAEL RYMER

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THAT'S WHAT SHOWING AT AYALA CINEMAS

THEATRE MALL
GREENHILLS
a landmark reinvented!

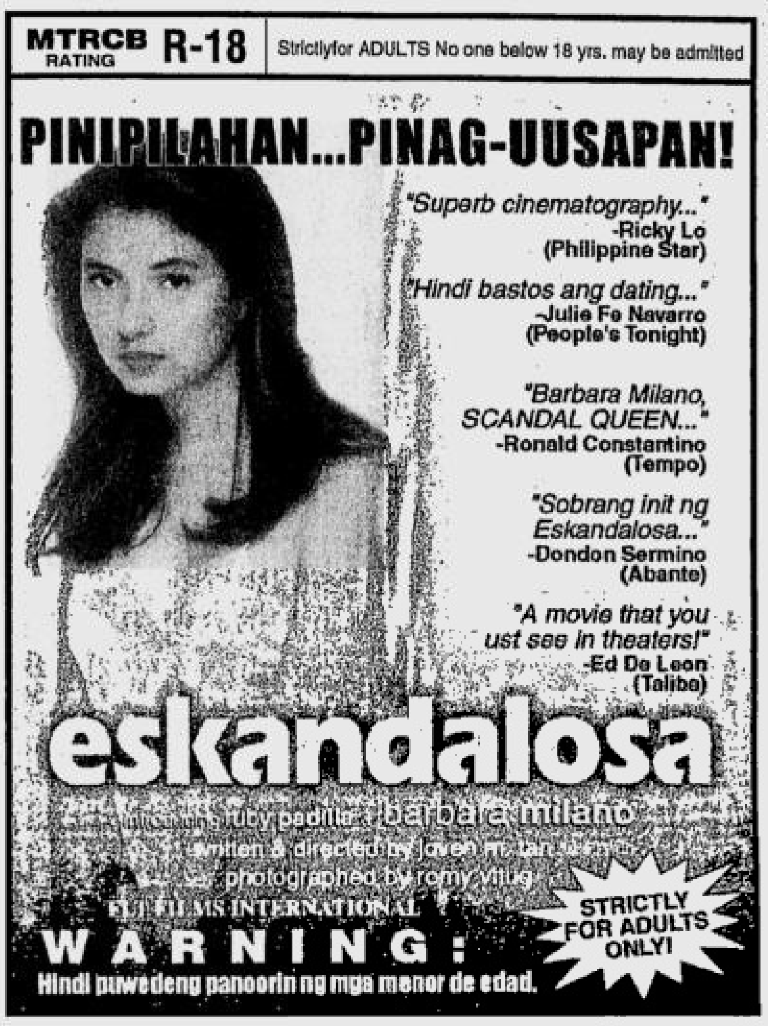
NOW SHOWING

CINEMA 1
WE WERE SOLDIERS
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
P 13

CINEMA 2
A BEAUTIFUL MIND
P 13

Matinee: P80.00 - Screenings before 5:00pm, Monday thru Friday (Free Seating).
Reserved Seating: P120.00 - After 5:00pm, Saturday, Sunday, Holidays
GREENHILLS SHOPPING CENTRE, ORTIGAS AVENUE, GREENHILLS, SAN JUAN, METRO MANILA • 721-4496

MUSIC MUSEUM
MUSIC MUSEUM March 14 ILAW&ALIW Willie Nepomuceno 7:30 PM / March 22, 2002 AYEN The Launching 9:00 PM
FOR INQUIRIES & RESERVATION, PLS CALL .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PINIPILAHAN...PINAG-UUSAPAN!

"Superb cinematography..."
-Ricky Lo (Philippine Star)

"Hindi bastos ang dating..."
-Julie Fe Navarro (People's Tonight)

"Barbara Milano, SCANDAL QUEEN..."
-Ronald Constantino (Tempo)

"Sobrang init ng Eskandalosa..."
-Dondon Sermino (Abante)

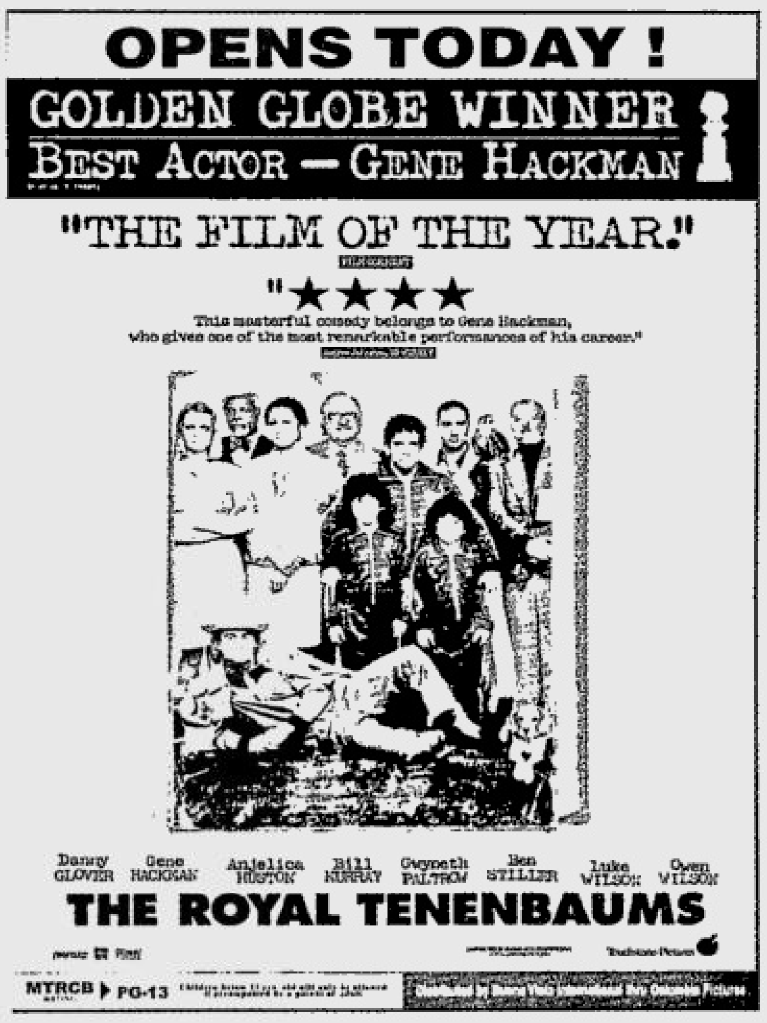
"A movie that you ust see in theaters!"
-Ed De Leon (Talibo)

eskandalosa

introducing ruby padilla barbara milano
written & directed by joven m. tan
photographed by romy vitug

WARNING:
Hindi puwedeng panoorin ng mga menor de edad.

STRICTLY FOR ADULTS ONLY!


OPENS TODAY !

GOLDEN GLOBE WINNER
BEST ACTOR — GENE HACKMAN

"THE FILM OF THE YEAR."

"★★★★
This masterful comedy belongs to Gene Hackman, who gives one of the most remarkable performances of his career."

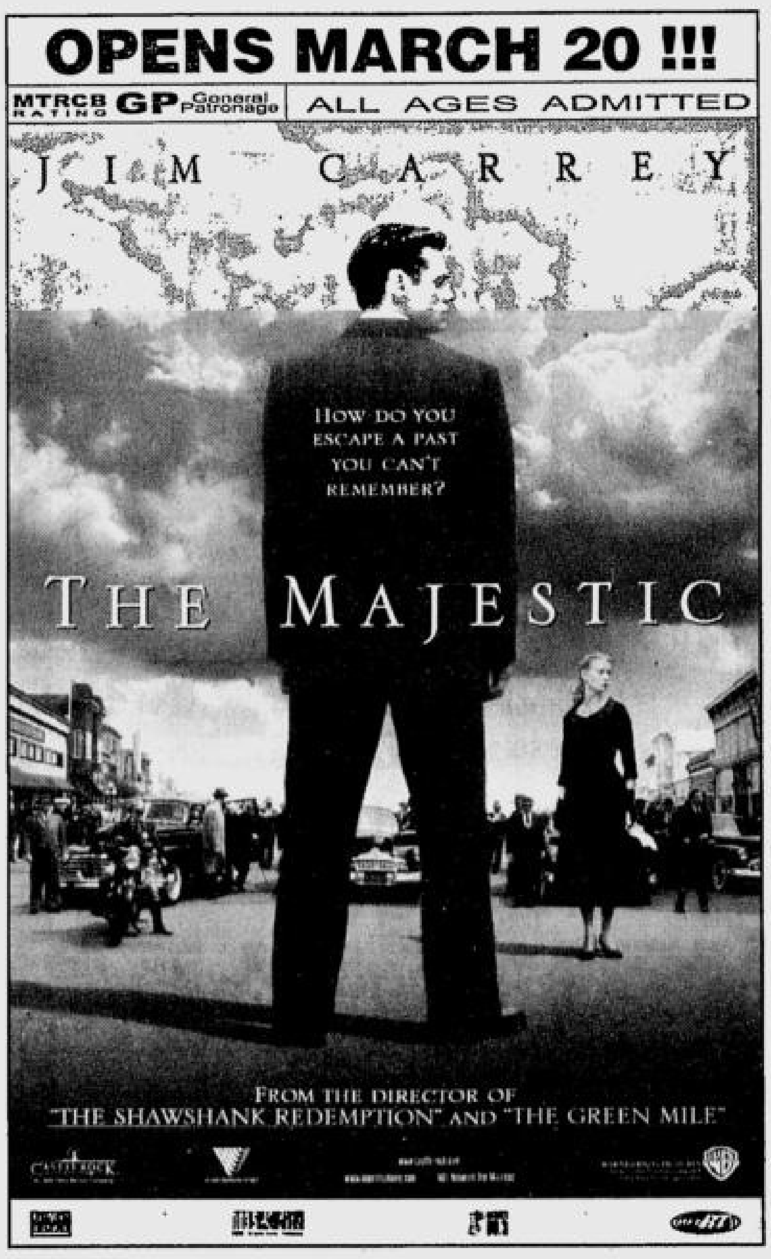
Danny GLOVER Gene HACKMAN Anjelica HUSTON Bill MURRAY Gwyneth PALTROW Ben STILLER Luke WILSON Owen WILSON

THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS

Touchstone Pictures

MTRCB ▶ PG-13

Distributed by Buena Vista International thru Columbia Pictures


OPENS MARCH 20 !!!

MTRCB RATING GP General Patronage ALL AGES ADMITTED

JIM CARREY

HOW DO YOU ESCAPE A PAST YOU CAN'T REMEMBER?

THE MAJESTIC

FROM THE DIRECTOR OF "THE SHAWSHANK REDEMPTION" AND "THE GREEN MILE"

Maricel, Assunta lead FAP best actress nominees

THE FILM Academy of the Philippines announces the nominees for cinematic achievements for the year 2001, led by best picture nominees "Abakada . . . Ina" (Viva Films), "Mila" and "Bagong Buwan" (Star Cinema), "Yamashita" (M&Q Productions) and "Hubog" (Good Harvest Films).

Best director nominees are Marilou Diaz Abaya ("Bagong Buwan"), , Eddie Garcia ("Abakada . . . Ina"), Joel Lamangan ("Hubog"), Joey del Rosario ("Kaaway Hanggang Hukay") and Chito Roño ("Yamashita").

In the acting categories the nominees are:

Actor—Ricky Davao ("Minsan May Isang Puso"), Jay Manalo "(Hubog"), Cesar Montano ("Bagong Buwan"), Diether Ocampo ("La Vida Rosa") and Piolo Pascual ("Mila").

Actress—Amy Austria ("Bagong Buwan"), Assunta de Rossi ("Hubog"), Mylene Dizon ("Gatas: Sa Dibdib ng Kaaway"), Maricel Soriano ("Mila") and Lorna Tolentino ("Abakada . . . Ina").

Supporting actor—Carlo Aquino, Noni Buencamino, Ronnie Lazaro and Jericho Rosales (all for "Bagong Buwan") and Dante Rivero ("Tuhog").

Supporting actress—Ana Capri ("Minsan May Isang Puso"), Alessandra de Rossi ("Hubog"), Jaclyn Jose ("Tuhog"), Elizabeth Oropesa ("Balahibong Pusa") and Caridad Sanchez ("Bagong Buwan").

Screenplay—Roy Iglesias/Chito Roño ("Yamashita"), Bing Lao.("La Vida Rosa"), Meek Roxas ("Kaawaay Hanggang Hukay"), Ricky Lee ("Mila") and Shaira Salvador/Ramon Bayron ("Abakada . . . Ina").

The FAP awards are the equivalent of Hollywood's Oscar Awards, the nominees and winners voted by peers in the movie industry.

Under the umbrella of the Film Academy of the Philippines are various guilds representing producers, directors, actors, writers, cinematographers, musicians, production designers, editors, sound engineers and other workers in the motion picture industry.

Lifetime achievement awardees in the 20th FAP awards are movie queens of the '50s and veteran actresses Gloria Romero and Nida Blanca (posthumous).

The awards rites will be staged March 23 at the UP University Theater, covered by RPN 9, produced by Tess Celestino of Airtime Marketing and directed by Al Quinn. Trophies are donated by Kodak Philippines Ltd.

Other nominees:

Cinematography—Romulo Araojo ("Abakada . . . Ina" and "Hubog"), Monino Duque ("Mila"), Eduardo Jacinto ("Bagong Buwan") and Richard Padernal ("Mananabas").

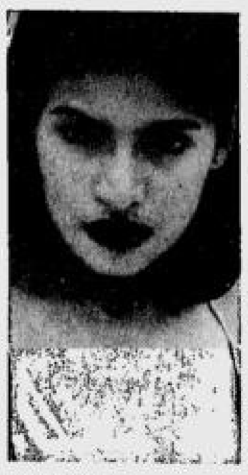
Production design—Dez Bautista ("Tatarin"), Judy Lou de Pio ("Bagong Buwan") and Ron Heri Tan ("Tuhog").

Editing—Vito Cajili/Joyce Bernal ("La Vida Rosa"), Manet Dayrit ("Yamashita"), Tara Illenberger ("Hubog"), Ike Jarlego Jr. ("Aba-kada . . . Ina") and Augusto Salvador ("Mananabas").

Musical score—Tony Cortez ("Susmaryosep") and Blitz Padua ("Parehas ang Laban").

Sound—Roel Bruan ("Abakada . . . Ina"), Albery Michael Idioma ("Bagong Buwan" and "Yamashita"), Ramon Reyes ("Pagdating ng Panahon") and Albert Michael Idioma and Rudy Gonzales ("Mila").

SORIANO


DE ROSSI

ROMERO

BLANCA

ROÑO

ROSALES

POWER PLANT
CINEMA
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DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

D-TOX - R 18 11:50, 1:45, 3:40, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45	ROYAL TENENBAUMS - P 13 11:40, 2:10, 4:40, 7:10, 9:40	WE WERE SOLDIERS - P 13 1:00, 4:00, 6:55, 9:50
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED - P 13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SHIPPING NEWS - P 13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

Matinee, P80, Mon.-Fri.,11:00 am to 4:45 pm Screenings, Free Seating.

CHILL OUT ON MARCH 30 !
MTRCB RATING G General Patronage | ALL AGES ADMITTED

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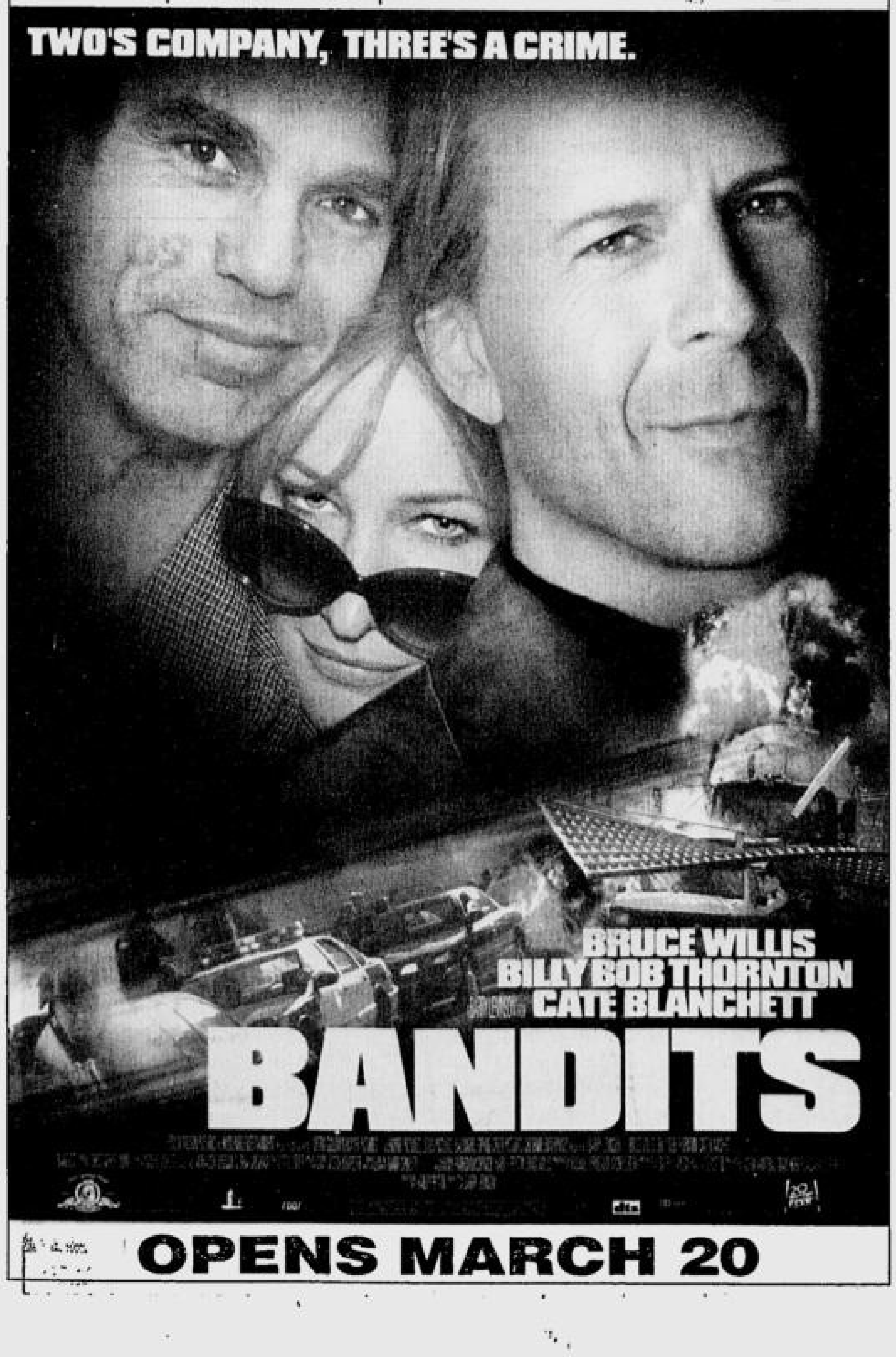


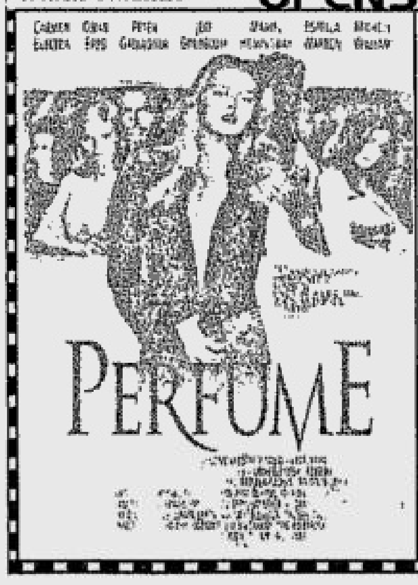
OPENS MARCH 20

TODAY, dive beneath the surface
Academy Award-winners
KEVIN SPACEY and JUDI DENCH
Academy Award-nominees
JULIANNE MOORE and CATE BLANCHETT

You'll never know what you may find inside...
THE SHIPPING NEWS
MIRAMAX SKYFILMS

MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs. old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult.

AYALA CINEMAS
ARTFILM - GREENBELT
Art Film
OPENS MARCH 20 (Wed.)



AN EXCLUSIVE PHILIPPINE PREMIERE

"UNADULTERATED, PROVOCATIVE, SENSUAL, ONCE-IN-A-LIFE-TIME, ROCK AND ROLL GENEUS!"
-- Janice Crawford,"V"Magazine

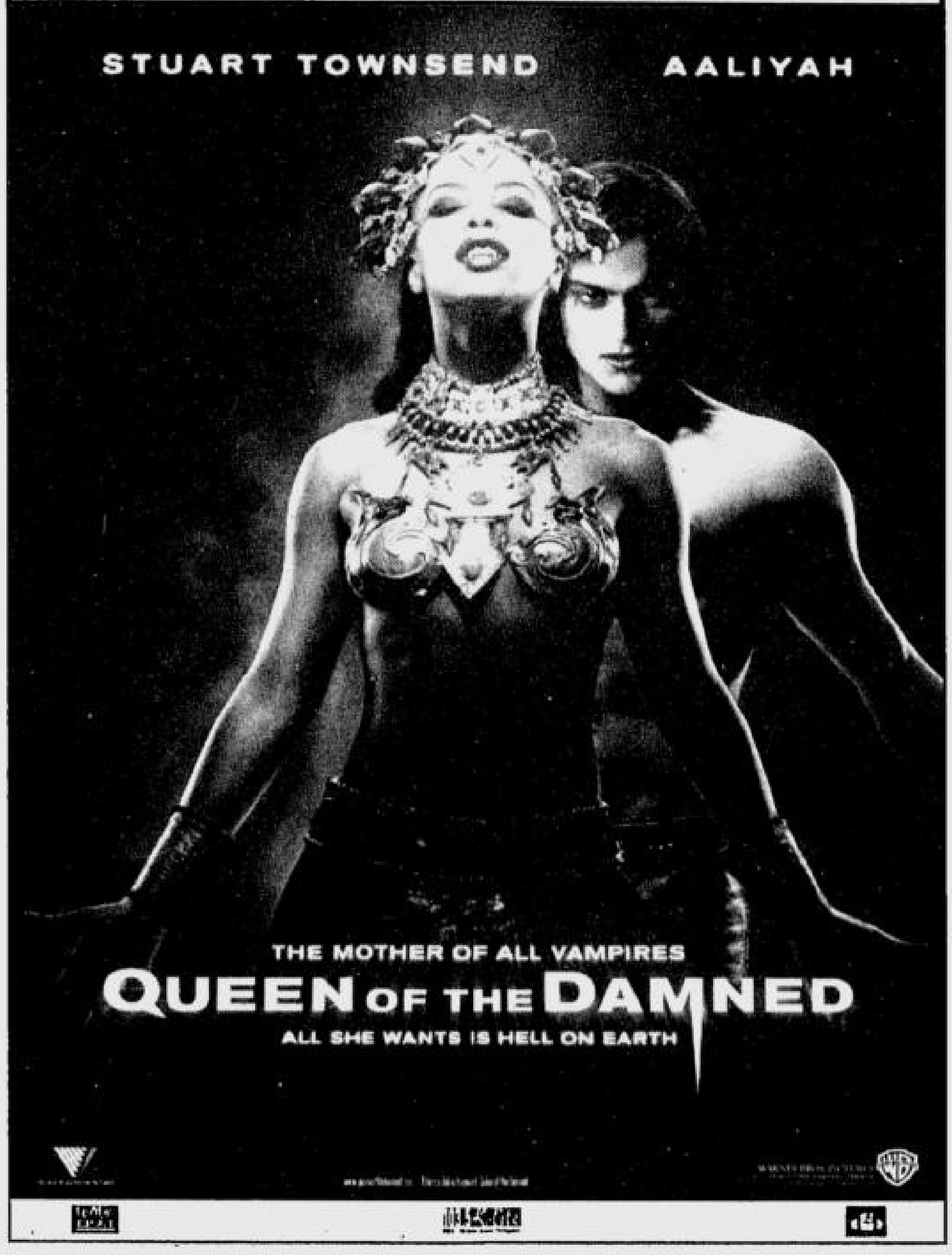
PERFUME is an improvisational piece set in the world of fashion which centers upon: Lorenzo Mancici, head of the Mancici fashion empire, who learns on his way to his own surprise birthday party that he has prostate cancer; mega-rap star McBrilliant, who along with Lorenzo's son Mario, is launching a new line of street fashion; Roberta, whose partner Camille has just left their company after seven years; Janice, editor of a ruthless fashion magazine; Anthony, a hipster photographer and Arianno a typical supermodel diva.

CAST: Carmen Electra, Omar Epps, Peter Gallagher, Jeff Goldblum, Mariel Hemingway, Estella Warren & Michelle Williams

MTRCB Rating: Parental Guidance 13 (PG-13)

NOKIA SKYFILMS INQUIRER

DAMNED SCARY ! FEAR REIGNS TODAY (March 13) in theaters everywhere!
MTRCB RATING PG-13 | Children below 13 yrs.old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


STUART TOWNSEND
AALIYAH
THE MOTHER OF ALL VAMPIRES
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
ALL SHE WANTS IS HELL ON EARTH

ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Boob-tube booboos

VIEWFINDER

Nestor U. Torre

HOST: You have a lovely home here. It's so beautifully organized.

Homeowner: Thank you. Well, here we are in the kitchen—this is the part of the house where if I'm not busy, I cook myself.

(Wheee!)

* * *

Host: I hear you were in the hospital last week?

Guest: Yes, I had kidney stone, *ang sakit ng atay ko!*

(Ah, please explain!)

* * *

Host: What did you like about your boyfriend? Why did you marry him?

Guest: He was so young and impressionistic!

(*Ay*, impressionistic!)

* * *

Host: How can husbands help when their wives are in the delivery room?

Guest: It's more after the delivery. They have to understand that women are often depressed during the post-pardon period.

(Uh, pardon me?)

* * *

Host: Is it true that you went to Japan to get married?

Guest: Yes, but I want to make it clear that I was not a made-to-order bride!

(Clarification duly noted!)

* * *

Host: What do you wish for your best friend on her birthday?

Guest: I wish her fish of mine.

(That sounds—fishy.)

* * *

Host: what do you like doing?

Guest: I like dancing!

Host: *Nagtiya-tiyaga ka talaga, ha?*

Guest: What? Oh, yes, I like the cha-cha!

(Duh.)

* * *

Host: I hear many tourists are coming to your town?

Mayor: Every year, more and more!

Host: Why do you think they like it here?

Mayor: The tourist sites, of course. But, most of all, because of our warm and gentile people!

(Gentile? You mean, they're—?)

* * *

Host: Why is France considered the source of some of the best wines in the world?

Guest: *Kasi*, in France, *maraming bukid ang tinatayuan ng ubas!*

(Maybe something got lost in the translation?)

* * *

Host: What is the secret of your success?

Guest: *Simple lang!* I enjoy to my work!

(Ah, so!)

* * *

Host: After his recent revelation, do you think the accused has any chance of being found innocent?

Guest: Well, because of what he did, at this point, it's already mute and academic!

(So, please to shut up, already?)

'Ice Age'

FOR months now, we've been seeing its teaser of a trailer on our movie screens—you know, the one that shows that ratty-looking critter who is trapped between two colliding glaciers, then hurled off a precipice and finally hitting the ground with a thud—only to be stepped on by a huge mammoth.

Well, it turns out that the teaser is for a film titled "Ice Age," an eye-popping, all-digital animated feature from Fox Animation.

The film introduces viewers to four unlikely allies: Manny, the mammoth, voiced by **Ray Romano**; Sid, the "Smooth Operator" sloth (**John Leguizamo**); Diego, the "Double Agent" tiger (**Denis Leary**), and the acorn-loving Scrat.

As the Earth is being overrun by glaciers (some 20,000 years ago), and all creatures are fleeing the new Ice Age, our quartet of misfits come together to return a human infant to his father.

Braving boiling lava pits, treacherous ice caves, freezing temperatures and a secret, evil plot, these misfits become the world's first heroes!

POP idol Gary Valenciano duets with Lani Misalucha in the track, "Things Are Not the Same."

Gary's new Viva album only a one-shot deal

SHOWBIZ TIDBITS

Leah Salterio

WHEN word got around that **Gary Valenciano**, a Universal Records artist for nearly a decade now, was coming out with an album under Viva Records, people in and out of the industry started to come up with all sorts of speculations.

Was there a bad blood between Gary and **Bella Dy-Tan**, big boss of Universal Records?

Did Viva present him an offer he couldn't resist that's why he threw his loyalty out of the window?

But Gary's latest album, "One2One," isn't a result of any misunderstanding or disloyalty.

Viva big boss **Vic del Rosario** presented the concept of an album which will feature Gary recording duets with other artists. He liked it and even his Universal boss, Bella Tan, gave him the nod to record for Viva, although only for a one-shot deal.

Gary remains a Universal Records contract artist and he will continue to make albums for the said outfit.

"One2One" is a significant release for Gary since it marks his reunion with Viva Records. It was with Vicor, Viva's sister company, for which Gary released his recording debut in the mid-'80s. Vicor also mounted Gary's first major concert, "And Here He Is . . . Gary."

It is also the first time for Gary to do an all-duets album.

Viva Records gathered a first-rate cast of musicians, songwriters, producers and arrangers for "One2One." They include **Jimmy Antiporda**, **Mon Faustino** of Powerplay Band, **Snaffu Rigor**, **Albert Tamayo**, **Mike Luis**, **Jingle Buena**, **Marvin Querido**, **Mon Espia** and **Noel Mendez**, who plays the Spanish guitar on "Historia de Un Amor."

Boss Vic's eldest son, **Vincent del Rosario**, acted as the album's executive producer.

For the carrier single, Gary does a revival of "Can We Just Stop and Talk a While," a beautiful ballad originally popularized by multi-awarded singer-songwriter **Jose Mari Chan**, who is Gary's fellow TOYM awardee. Gary records the song with Kyla, MTV's viewers choice awardee last year.

The album's stellar lineup is simply unbeatable. Gary performs "Somewhere, Somehow" with megastar **Sharon Cuneta** and sings "Kung Mawawala Ka" with **Zsa Zsa Padilla**.

With pop diva **Kuh Ledesma**, he does a duet of "A Long and Lasting Love" and with **Lani Misalucha**, he sings "Things Are Not the Same."

With Freestyle vocalist **Jinky Vidal**, Gary does a remake of Atlantic Starr's "Always," while he sings an original, "Gusto Kita," with **Vina Morales**.

Bituin Escalante records another original tune, "Hourglass," with Gary. And upcoming Genesis artist Pam G duets with him in "Ikaw Lang Pala."

Interestingly, "One2One" also features Gary and his mom, **Grimilda Santiago-Ortiz**, in the classic Spanish love song, "Historia de Un Amor." The track was inspired by the video duet of **Natalie Cole** and **Nat King Cole** in "Unforgettable."

The video duet with his mom was one of the highlights of Gary's recent Valentine concert at the NBC Tent at The Fort. It was Gary who edited the special video of his mother for the concert.

Before he left Monday night for Germany, Gary found time for his album launch at noon that same day at the Cosmopolitan Café owned by sexy actress **Ara Mina**.

Will his album also pave the way for a new movie with Viva? It will be remembered that it was with the film outfit where Gary made his big screen debut in "Hotshots," with **Jobelle Salvador** playing his love interest.

"I am very excited to try acting again," says Gary, who will soon be seen in a semi-regular role on GMA 7's popular soap series, "Ikaw Lang ang Mamahalin."

"I tried it again on TV recently and if there's a good offer to make a new movie again, I will find time for it."

Gary was last seen on the big screen in the comedy-musical, "Hataw Na," opposite former Miss Universe **Dayanara Torres**.

Clarification

KUH Ledesma was on the phone Monday afternoon, clarifying the item which came out that day on this column that she "walked out" from the wedding of Manila 5th District Councilor **Kim Atienza**, when she saw her estranged husband **Louie Quirino Gonzales**, arrive in the church with girlfriend **Bingbing Gonzales**.

Midway in the wedding, Kuh and her daughter **Isabella** stood up and quietly left the San Agustin Church.

"I left the wedding early because I had a flu that night," Kuh explained. "I didn't even know that he (Louie) was there with her. I didn't see them. I don't want that to become an issue. *Nakakahiya kay Kim!*"

Jimenez to SMC board

CONGRATULATIONS to GMA executive **Menardo Jimenez**, who was recently handpicked by President Macapagal to represent the government in the board of San Miguel Corporation.

For more than two decades, Jimenez led GMA Network from a small black and white station to the most respective TV station in the country.

GMA 7 sources said the appointment of Jimenez to the SM board was received with pride by the GMA family, considering that the qualifications required for being a board member are competence, integrity and track record.

Jimenez shall not only fill in the role of SMC board member, but also board member of other SMC subsidiaries and operating committees.

Jimenez has two sons who are also in the media. **Butch** was also a GMA 7 executive and film producer before he moved to PLDT, where he is now vice president for corporate communications. The younger son, **Joel**, owns Alta Productions.

[Be underage and overpaid]

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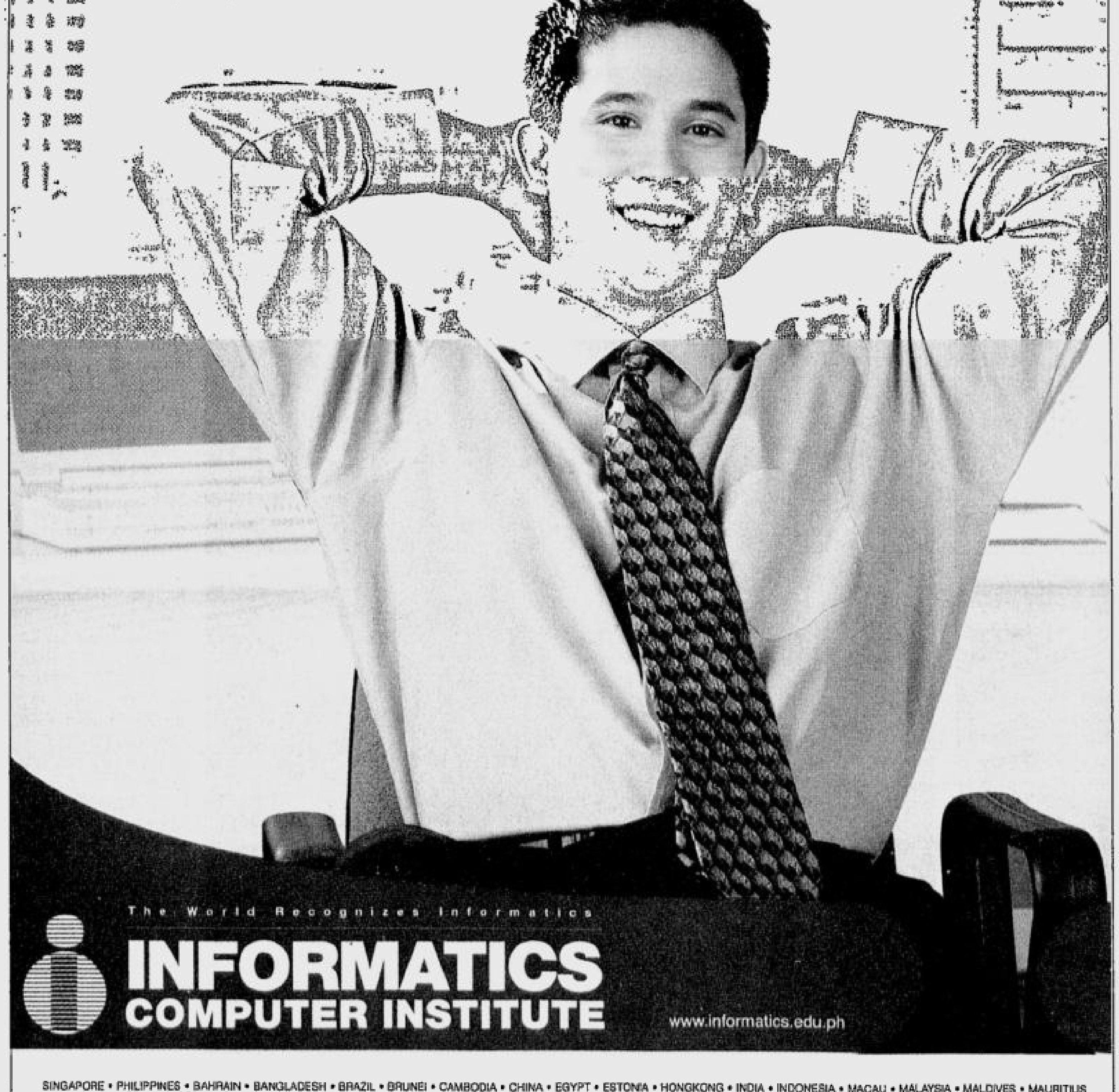

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RP secures $2.8B in loan pledges

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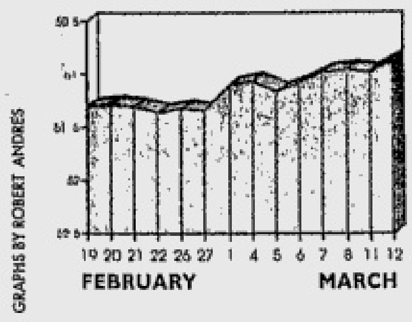

PESO-DOLLAR RATE

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As of 5 p.m., March 12, 2002

¥128.56 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 12, 2002

GOLD: $291.70/292.20

per ounce Hong Kong, March 12, 2002

STOCK MARKET

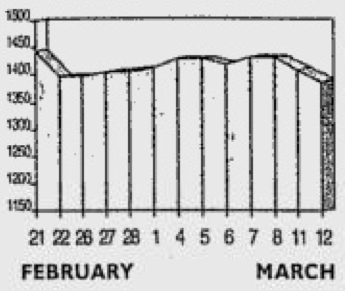
Shares fall 1.4%

SHARE prices fell 1.4 percent yesterday on selling of blue chips, with concerns over the corruption trial of deposed President Joseph Estrada dampening sentiment, brokers said.

The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index fell 20.55 points to 1,388.86.

Turnover fell to 449.74 million shares worth P623.8 million from Monday's 660.99 million shares worth P727.66 million.

PSE COMPOSITE INDEX



(See stock market report on Page B6)

"There's no good news to spark trading activity so we eventually gave in to selling pressure," said Manny Cruz of Mark Securities Corp.

Investors were also worried over the slow progress of the corruption case against Estrada, who has sacked all his lawyers and accused the courts of being biased.

"Every time he (Estrada) appears he makes it a point to put a dent on whatever positive development there is, to show that this government can't deliver," Cruz said.

AFP

By Clarissa S. Batino

CLARK Special Economic Zone, Pampanga—Foreign aid donors yesterday pledged some $2.8 billion in aid to the Philippines at the end of a two-day meeting with officials of the Macapagal administration.

The commitments came after the government promised to make better use of its official development assistance (ODA) following criticism by foreign donors of wasting aid grants.

Finance Secretary Jose Isidro Camacho, chair of the donors' meeting, said the commitments the government solicited were much more than the $2 billion it had expected from the exercise.

"As we conclude the consultative group meeting, there are indications of $2.8 billion in loan pledges, including $2.2 billion in official development assistance," World Bank country director Robert Vance Pulley said.

Pledges made at these meetings usually are loans offered at concessional or very low interest rates as well as direct grants.

The government has come under fire from foreign donors in the past for not doing enough to wipe out graft and boost efficiency to speed up economic growth while reducing poverty.

But Economic Planning Secretary Dante Canlas told donors' representatives here yesterday morning the government has already taken steps to improve the use of aid money.

CANLAS

These include adopting laws on government right-of-way for infrastructure projects that encroach on privately owned property.

Another law also banned lower courts from issuing writs that temporarily stop government infrastructure projects.

President Macapagal-Arroyo had also set specific timetables for government projects so as to beef up efficiency, he said.

"The administration is committed to continue with reform measures intended to improve significantly ODA performance in 2002 and beyond," Canlas said in a statement issued during the meeting.

The Macapagal administration

RP/ B2

2-month car sales slide by 2.2% to 11,425 units

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE AUTOMOTIVE industry continued to slog through weak sales in the first two months this year as the growing popularity of second-hand sport utility vehicles, pickup trucks and vans from Subic depressed demand for brand new commercial vehicles.

The Chamber of Automotive Manufacturers of the Philippines Inc. reported that sales dropped 2.2 percent to 11,425 units from January to February this year from 11,686 units in the same period last year.

Sales of commercial vehicles, which account for nearly seven out of 10 brand new vehicles sold in the country, slipped 7.7 percent to 7,744 units in the first two months this year from 8,394 during the same period last year.

The American Chamber of Commerce and Japanese Chamber of Commerce took the cudgels for their member-assemblers by blaming the declining sales on the influx of used vehicles, specifically SUVs, pickups and passenger vans. Amcham and JCCI claimed that for every one used, second-hand vehicle sold in the country, an assembler loses the opportunity to sell one new vehicle.

In contrast, passenger cars enjoyed a sort of resurgence of demand as sales climbed 11.8 percent to 3,681 units in the first two months this year from 3,292 units a year ago.

Toyota Motor Philippines Corp. continued to lead the pack with a market share of 29.7 percent (3,391 units) as sales were powered by the best-selling passenger car model (Corolla) and best-selling Asian utility vehicle (Tamaraw FX).

Mitsubishi Motors Philippines Corp. was second with a market share of 21.54 percent (2,461 units) as it dominated the commercial vehicle segment. Honda Cars Philippines Inc. was third with a market share of 13.3 percent (1,522 units) as it controlled the passenger car segment. The rest of the top five are Isuzu Philippines Corp. (1,349 units) and Nissan group (924 units).

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Government borrowings rose 10% last year

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE COUNTRY'S debt stock rose by 10.1 percent to P2.385 trillion as of end-2001 from P2.167 trillion a year ago, government data showed.

The increase in the debt level was attributed to higher foreign and local borrowings and a weaker peso last year compared with the previous year's level.

The government used a peso-dollar rate of 51.50 to a dollar when computing its obligations in December 2001 as against the previous year's average foreign exchange rate of 49.95 to $1. The December peso-dollar rate showed an improvement from the 52 to $1 exchange rate in November.

Domestic debts still accounted for the bulk, or 52.20 percent, of the country's total debt stock last year. Local borrowings rose by 16.8 percent last year to P1.248 trillion from P1.068 trillion in the previous year.

Foreign loans went up by 3.5 percent in the same period to P1.137 trillion as the national government went on a borrowing binge to finance the budget deficit and the requirements of the National Power Corp.

In November, the government borrowed about $450 million from the Euro bond market in behalf of Napocor.

A month later, it raised close to $400 million from the Japanese bond market and another $117 million from the dollar deposit units of local banks to finance its deficit worth P130 billion this year.

The Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas also raised $500 million from the Euro bond market in late 2001.

The debt stock figures released by the government included only the state's local and foreign borrowings. The liabilities of the private sector are reflected in the BSP's debt statistics.

The debt stock as of end-2001 does not include yet the government's contingent liability of nearly P500 billion.

The government noted that the bulk of last year's obligations were long-term in nature. It said that less than 40 percent would mature within one to five years.

About 60 percent of last year's total foreign debts was dollar-denominated and 35 percent was in Japanese yen.

The government raised close to $2 billion in foreign debts last year. Of this, $500 million was used to finance last year's P147 billion deficit and more than $500 million will be used to help complete this year's $1.5 billion financing requirement.

This year, the government needs to borrow P267.4 billion. Of the total, it will use P155.6 billion to service its debts while P113 billion will be used to finance the budget gap.

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Roadshow for Napocor's Transco shelved

By Ronnel W. Domingo

THE GOVERNMENT is putting off the marketing roadshow for National Transmission Corp. until Congress approves National Power Corp.'s privatization plan, according to Energy Secretary Vincent Perez Jr.

"Our plan to have Transco privatized by June is really very ambitious," Perez told reporters.

He said he was hoping the Joint Congressional Power Committee would endorse the privatization plan before it adjourned at the end of the week.

"But aside from the privatization plan, we still have a lot to do before we can do that roadshow," Perez added.

Perez earlier said energy officials were planning to do a second roadshow this month after touring New York and London late in January.

He said the government needed to do the following before it could proceed with the plan:

- get the consent of Napocor creditors for the transfer of the power firm's assets to the Power Sector Assets and Liabilities Management Corp.;
- for the energy department to come out with a development plan for the transmission sector;
- for the Energy Regulatory Commission to review and act on the applications for unbundling of the rates and tariffs of Napocor, power distributors and electric cooperatives;
- for Napocor to start negotiations with its customers on supply contracts covering the transition toward an open market, and
- for the energy department to issue the drafting rules for the wholesale electricity spot market.

Perez said the department was expected to come out with the rules by next month.

ERC chief Fe Barin said earlier that the ERC would be hard-pressed to act on all applications for unbundled rates by June.

"There are 140 petitions and the ERC has to review these very carefully," Barin said.

In a related matter, Perez said Napocor did not need to borrow more funds immediately.

The firm is $250 million short of the $1 billion it needs to fund its operations for 2002.

"We will not return to the bond market until late this year," Perez said.

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Palace to limit imports of second-hand vehicles

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG is reportedly willing to allow Subic auctioneers to continue their thriving business of importing second-hand vehicles into the country but on a 'very' limited scale.

Federation of Philippine Industries chair Raul T. Concepcion said the government was considering limiting the type and age of second-hand vehicles that could be sold in the Subic auctions.

Concepcion, who heads the private-led oversight committee on Subic and Cebu port operations, said that since the used vehicle imports were meant to provide affordable vehicles to the masses, only low- to mid-price models should be brought here and not the luxurious sport utility vehicles such as the Mitsubishi Pajero.

Concepcion noted that the bulk of the estimated 1,000 vehicles sold in Subic auctions per month were SUVs and high-end passenger vans that Japanese and American assemblers consider as direct competition for their brand new models.

Also, Concepcion said that only used vehicles which were at least three years old should be shipped into the country to curb abuses by importers. He said that in some cases, radiators of one- or 2-year-old cars were busted to pass them off as second-hand cars to get lower valuation.

The government is also planning to centralize the importation of used vehicles by bringing them here in shiploads, rather than containers, to facilitate government inspection. Concepcion said the government was also considering adopting a standard set of price values for each model to ensure that the government gets its fair share of the duties and taxes from each unit.

He said the government could not enforce a total ban on the importation of used vehicles because they provide a cheaper alternative to brand-new models. It also generate jobs for hundreds of Filipinos who specialize in converting right-hand drive vehicles. The used vehicle imports were initially targeted for re-export in order to take advantage of lower labor costs in the country by converting the right-hand vehicles in the Philippines than in Japan (where the converters use Filipino labor).

PSE urges Shell, Mirant to conduct IPO this year

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said the Philippine Stock Exchange has joined the energy department in convincing Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. and Mirant Philippines to do their initial public offerings within the year.

"PSE president Ernest Leung told me of the exchange's plan to talk to the two firms," Perez said. "I think they (the PSE) would be more active on this now that they have elected a new board."

The secretary said he was still pushing for the IPO of Pilipinas Shell although the oil giant had hinted that it might not be done this year.

"I have also talked to (Mirant Philippines president) Edgardo Bautista again last week to follow up on Mirant's IPO," Perez added.

Earlier, Pilipinas Shell chair Eliseo Santiago said the company had to do thorough studies on the market conditions before it could do an IPO.

"We have to consider a lot of things and the market's performance is just one of those," Santiago said.

He said an ill-timed public listing would have negative results rather than an improvement in the market.

"We will keep on submitting to the energy department a quarterly report (on whether or not an IPO is already doable)," Santiago said.

Perez had said Shell could be expected to do an IPO by yearend.

He noted that the oil giant had seen signs of recovery in 2001, among which was an estimated net income of P2.5 billion.

"I feel that if the recovery of Shell were to continue this year, an IPO no later than the last quarter of this year is feasible," he said.

In another interview, Perez said President Macapagal-Arroyo and Marce Fuller—chief of Mirant's United States-based mother firm—had agreed on Mirant Philippines' listing.

Mirant Philippines reported a net income of about P8.6 billion in 2000, the biggest posted by a company in the country that year. ***Ronnel W. Domingo***

RP secures $2.8B . . .

From page B1

tapped $1.05 billion from the ODA pipeline last year, compared to $994.9 million in 2000 and $840 million in 1999, he added.

Many of these aid pledges require counterpart funding by the Philippine government, which suffered huge budget deficits during the abbreviated July 1998-January 2001 term of Ms Macapagal's deposed predecessor Joseph Estrada.

Canlas said the government allotted P41 billion in counterpart funding for foreign-assisted projects in the 2002 national budget, compared to P29 billion last year.

"The challenge was to arrest the further decline and turn around performance of ODA-funded projects," Canlas said.

Last year, the Asian Development Bank sought greater accountability as well as commitment from Manila toward the successful implementation of foreign-funded projects.

"We feel the government ought to implement a fair reward and penalty system at various levels of project implementation to achieve the development goals," an ADB official said at the time.

World Bank country director Pulley said at the start of the meeting Monday that the aid donors expected higher absorption levels in the Philippines this year to help battle poverty affecting 39.4 percent of its people.

Developments over the past years had contributed "to a certain sense of missed opportunities for the country among its long term ODA partners," Pulley said. ***With a report from AFP***

Sidelined at Seven

COCKTALES

Victor C. Agustin

LIKE a slow-motion movie, the repercussions of the "surprise" retirement of Menardo Jimenez Sr. as CEO/president of GMA-7 in December 2000 have been gradually unfolding within the country's second biggest network.

Rumors of the wholesale replacement of the supposedly holdover pro-Jimenez executives, led by GMA Marketing president Roberto Barreiro, spread throughout the media and advertising industries last week.

Barreiro, who is also senior vice president for TV operations, was still occupying the same positions as of yesterday, but GMA-7 corporate affairs chief Chit Arce, could not categorically state whether veteran adman Manuel Quiogue Jr. was indeed coming on board as rumored.

Quiogue, who was "retired" only last January as managing director of the rival ABS-CBN Channel 23, has been telling advertising agencies that he has been hired by GMA-7 to replace Barreiro, according to the ad industry grapevine.

Barreiro, according to the grapevine, first heard about his alleged replacement from the industry grapevine. If this were correct, it would have been a vindication-of-sort for Quiogue, 60, who also got wind of his impending retirement from ABS-CBN from unofficial sources.

The corporate changes in GMA-7 network have long been the subject of industry speculation since Jimenez was replaced by his brother-in-law, GMA-7 chair Felipe Gozon, as CEO/president amidst the Erap impeachment crisis.

Previously, Gozon, now 63, was content to preside as the decorative chair of the network, and allowed Jimenez, now 69, a free run for nearly two decades.

But the multibillion-peso spending on the new GMA-7 complex in Quezon City and the multimillion-peso losses accumulated by the network's critically acclaimed documentary film, Jose Rizal, allegedly did not sit well with Gozon.

According to the pro-Jimenez grapevine, Gozon had been questioning the said investments that, in a pique, his brother-in-law (Jimenez is married to Gozon's eldest sis-

COCKTALES/ B4

iBank expands product lines

THE INTERNATIONAL Exchange Bank (iBank) said it had expanded its portfolio of products and services designed for the needs of its corporate clientele and prime individual accounts.

iBank earlier launched high-yield time deposit instruments—iTime Plus and iTime Prime—in response to the growing requirement of the small- and medium-sized entrepreneurs for optimum earnings for their placements.

Alfredo Guiao, iBank marketing head, said the bank's business management sector has further customized its corporate products to provide more innovative automated solutions and out-sourced services.

Among these are ePayroll, an integrated payroll service; Check Writer Plus, a check cutting service; Checkinstore, a check warehousing service, and Remote Link, the provision of convenient remote banking terminals.

Guiao said the Check Writer Plus helps customers do away with tedious manual preparation and disbursement of checks, and facilitates monitoring and reconciliation of current accounts. Checkinstore, meanwhile, automates check monitoring systems for customers ensuring that checks are deposited on due dates and that their security is guaranteed.

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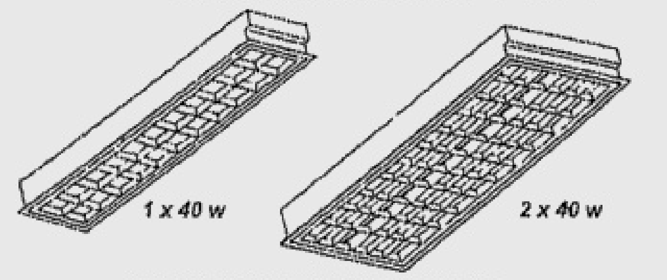

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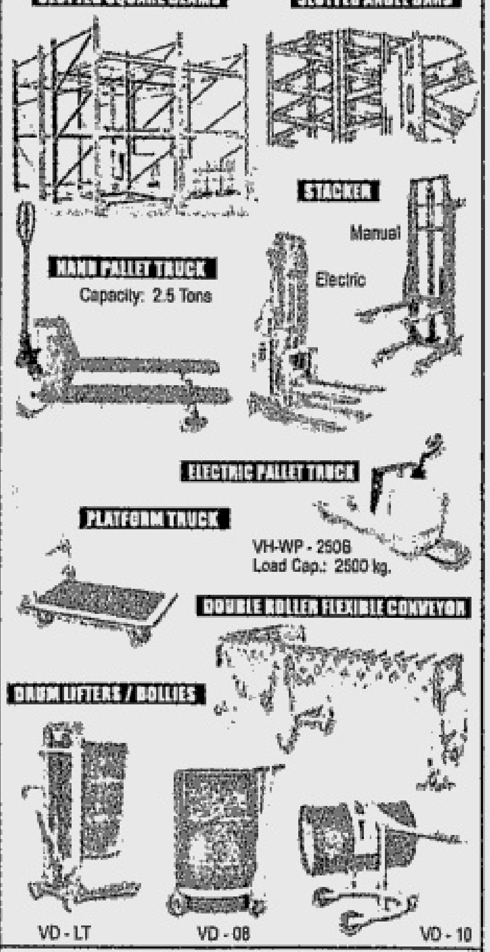

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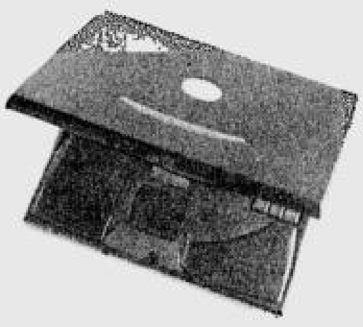

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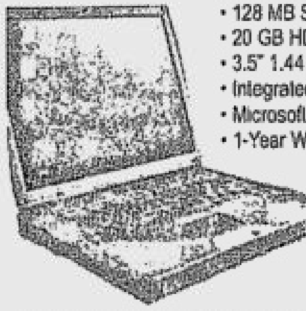

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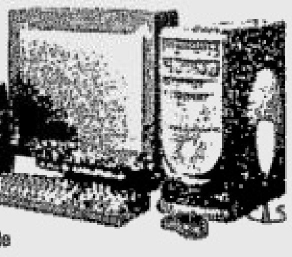

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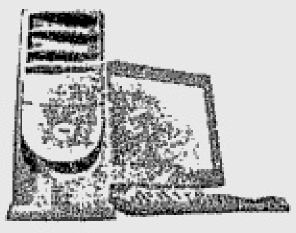

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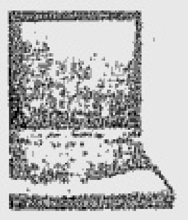

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FBDC predicts P1.5-B income from sale of Global City lands

By Doris C. Dumlao

FORT Bonifacio Development Corp. aims to raise about P1.5 billion this year from the sale of more parcels of land, as well as rents from various property developments within the 150-ha Fort Bonifacio Global City in Taguig.

In a news briefing after the groundbreaking of the expansion phase for retail and service complex Bonifacio Stopover late Monday afternoon, FBDC vice president for commercial operations Vicente Tinsay said the expected revenues for this year were lower than the P2 billion chalked up last year and the P2.5 billion in 2000.

However, he said the slump in the property sector was starting to bottom out and that FBDC—a joint venture between Metro Pacific Corp. and state-controlled Bases Conversion Development Authority—might be able to see more robust revenue flows by 2004.

He also said the big lot transactions covering the Big Delta area of the Global City had been factored in previous years, but maintained that developments would continue.

For instance, Tinsay said FBDC would step up efforts to sell parcels of land ranging between 900 and 13,000 square meters within the Global City, including 35 lots in i-Village, a residential development that aims to cater to teachers and employees of plush institutions in the University Parkway.

To date, the Manila Japanese School and the British School Manila are currently operating in the 30-ha University Parkway with a combined student population of 800.

The International School of Manila is also scheduled to relocate its operations in the Global City by September this year, occupying a 4-ha campus that would initially cater to 1,500 students.

This developed as FBDC started the expansion phase of the Bonifacio Stopover complex located at the Kalayaan flyover entrance to the Global City.

The expansion project, which is targeted for completion in four months, will cost P35 million but pump in some P10 million to P15 million in annual recurring revenues.

The Bonifacio Stopover expansion consists of both land lease and space lease areas averaging 1,500 and 1,000 square meters, respectively, for land and lease areas. The average period for land lease is 10 years and three years for space lease.

Among the locators occupying 70 percent of Bonifacio Stopover's available land and space are Pizza Hut, Chowking, Delifrance, Rick's Diner, Cucina, Bacolod Chicken, Nacho Fast, Zen, Pho Bac, West Lake, Racks, Carl's Jr. and Grillan.

Tinsay also announced that MC Home Depot, a one-stop shop for construction and furnishings, recently broke ground on a 2.6-ha area beside the popular foreign retailer S&R Price Club.

BOI grants fiscal perks for Total's P650-M depot

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

THE BOARD of Investments has granted fiscal incentives, including income tax breaks, to TotalFinaElf Petroleum Corp. for its oil depot project in Manila.

Total is spending over P650 million to build a 9,000-cubic-meter oil depot at the Manila Harbor Center Industrial Park along Manila Bay.

The project will start in October next year.

The oil depot will complement Total's P1-billion distribution terminal in Mariveles, Bataan.

The project is part of the oil firm's goal to get a bigger share of the Metro Manila market, which accounts for half of the national market.

The BOI approval finally put to rest the debate on whether Total is eligible for income tax breaks if the French petroleum giant gets the fuel that it sells from rivals in the domestic market instead of importing directly from abroad.

The Department of Energy has endorsed Total's petition to get income tax breaks for purchases of petroleum products from domestic sources sold in the domestic market that it deems a "common practice in the industry" even before the oil industry was deregulated in 1998.

Total applied for the mandatory incentives under the oil industry deregulation law, particularly the four-year income tax holiday, for its $20-million Bataan oil depot and terminal facility and 10 storage tanks for the Manila depot in Tondo.

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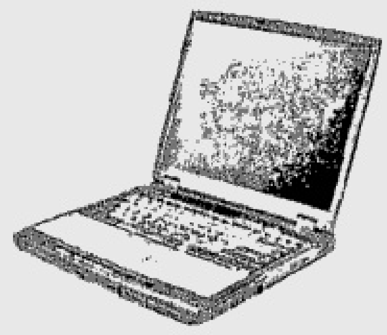

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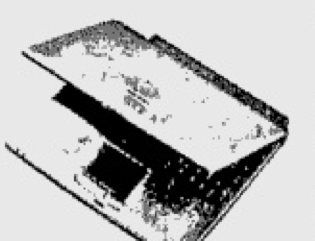

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GOINGS-ON

Super brand award

WILKINS Distilled Drinking Water was recently honored with the Year 2001 Super Brand Platinum Award by Reader's Digest Philippines, one of the world's oldest monthly magazines published in 48 editions and 19 languages and is sold in more than 60 countries.

The award is given annually to the brand that is voted by consumers as their top choice in various product categories based on the results of a consumer survey conducted by Reader's Digest.

Wilkins bagged the Super Brand Platinum Award when its score for unaided top of mind awareness and for the five quality values (quality, value, trustworthiness, strong image and understanding of consumer needs) is thrice more than the next highest brand. The survey was released to 10,000 readers.

AUB's teller-phone

ASIA United Bank (AUB) recently launched one of the most comprehensive telephone banking system in the industry.

Called "Teller-Phone," the new service allows clients to inquire about the wide range of AUB's products; its branch network addresses and phone numbers; foreign exchange rates; details of savings, checking and time deposit accounts (with fax option), and make special account requests like fund transfers, monthly statements, additional checkbooks and stop payment orders.

Enrollment to AUB's phone banking system can be done in any of its branches. Provincial clients can call toll free number 1-800-10-689-0000.

Cocktales . . .

From page B3

ter) put his position on the line before the board and, as it turned out, got the surprise of his life.

Rather than staying on the board, Jimenez opted to elect his namesake son to the seven-member board but, Menardo Jr. or "Butch," eventually followed his father and resigned as OIC of GMA creative services division. The young Jimenez is now one of the key lieutenants of PLDT president Manuel V. Pangilinan.

One Jimenez son, Joel, still sits on the GMA-7 board, along with Gualderto Duavit Jr., Duavit sister Judith Duavit-Vasquez, Gozon daughter Ana Teresa G. Abrogar, and ex-Energy Secretary Delfin Lazaro.

The position left vacant by the young Jimenez was briefly occupied by ex-SGV chair Gloria Tan-Climaco, who resigned after she was named presidential adviser by President Macapagal-Arroyo.

According to industry talk, the senior Jimenez had hoped that his namesake son would have been named vice chair of the network, to reflect the triple-power sharing arrangement among the three families, who own one-third each of GMA-7.

But that, too, did not pass, and the position of vice chair has remained unfilled, as it had long since.

(Latebreaker: Quiogue has been named OIC of GMA Marketing in place of Barreiro, who has been put on a floating status pending an adequate reply to a "show-cost letter" sent to him by the management.)

Another Buenaventura

AFTER the ascension of Rene Buenaventura as president of Equitable-PCIBank, a distant cousin of Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura, another Buenaventura could end up as president of another major bank.

According to the grapevine, Gil Buenaventura, ex-Citibanker now executive vice president of the Bank of the Philippine Islands, has been submitted by the government as president-candidate to the ailing Philippine National Bank.

It is not immediately clear if Gil B. is related to the more famous Buenaventura.

A major hitch for Gil B. is that taipan Lucio Tan, still the majority owner of PNB, has his eyes set on ex-PNBanker Val Araneta, currently RCBC president.

The Kapitan has reportedly asked his fellow taipan, Alfonso Yuchengco Jr., if he could pirate Araneta, with Yuchengco reportedly answering that it was up to Araneta if he wants to be pirated.

But Araneta's appointment is also not a sure thing. The PDIC/government allegedly turned Araneta down, on account of his being identified with, listen to this, ex-Bangko Sentral Governor Gabriel Singson.

Strange, this alleged reason for refusal, since Singson also happens to be a Macapagal-Arroyo adviser on central banking.

Heard through the grapevine

NAPOLEON Nazareno, the president of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corp., is scheduled to undergo a multiple bypass operation today at the Philippine Heart Center for Asia.

A cousin-surgeon is scheduled to perform the delicate operation.

(Cocktales may be reached by e-mail at cocktales_pdi@yahoo.com or at cocktales_pdi@hotmail.com.)

Gov't confident of meeting budget deficit target of ₱130B

BUDGET Secretary Emilia Boncodin said yesterday the government was expected to meet its P130-billion budget deficit target this year.

"We are confident that we will meet the first quarter deficit target," Boncodin told reporters.

"While the actual figures are not yet in because of the new accounting system, indications show that we are comfortably within the target," she said.

"I am also confident we will meet the full-year target," she added.

Boncodin was speaking at a consultative meeting between government officials and donor countries and institutions in Clark Pampanga, near Manila.

Boncodin said in a statement earlier that the national budget deficit could reach a level of P52.9 billion in the first quarter, or 40.6 percent of the full year-year target.

She said the government needed to spend more in the first quarter to stimulate the economy but added that the deficit was expected to taper off in the succeeding quarters.

On Monday, the Department of Finance reported that the country's consolidated public sector deficit reached P155.46 billion last year, lower than the government's target of P165.11 billion.

An official from the finance department told reporters the government hoped to contain the consolidated public sector deficit this year to P89.18 billion by tightening its spending.

The department said the Philippines' consolidated public sector deficit in 2001 was equal to 4.3 percent of the total economic output last year.

The consolidated public sector deficit measures the financial position of the government and all state-controlled corporations, financial institutions, state pension funds and the central bank.

For the national government alone, the current administration hopes to bring down its deficit this year to P130 billion from P147 billion in 2001. ***Clarissa S. Batino, Reuters***

ICTSI redeems $130M in notes

By Doris C. Dumlao

PORT operator International Container Terminal Services Inc. said yesterday it had fully retired $130 million in convertible notes using proceeds from the sale of its international unit, reducing its debt burden to P2.5 billion.

In a disclosure to the Philippine Stock Exchange, ICTSI said it made the final payment to redeem in full the convertible notes issued in March 1997 set to mature in 2004.

The ICTSI noteholders were given the option to convert the notes into ICTSI shares or let ICTSI redeem the notes at 135.75 percent of the principal amount in March this year.

Over the past several months, ICTSI said it paid a total of $171 million representing the principal, the fixed coupon interest of 1.75 percent and the premium on the notes.

"The settlement of the notes puts ICTSI in a healthier financial position," the company said, noting that its debt-to-equity ratio had gone down to multiples of 0.5 from 3.5 due to the drop in debt levels to P2.5 billion from P11 billion as of December 2000.

The ICTSI notes, which were issued in denominations of $1,000, were listed on the Luxembourg Stock Exchange.

ICTSI used most of the proceeds from the sale of its subsidiaries, ICTSI International Holdings Corp. and Ensenada Cruiseport Village SA de CV, to redeem the notes.

The sale of IIHC and the Mexican cruise port for $400 million to Hutchison International Holdings Ltd., a wholly owned subsidiary of the Hong Kong-based Hutchison conglomerate, was completed in June last year.

Of the total $400-million equity value agreed upon for IIHC, the ICTSI group got about $240 million for its 60-percent stake, boosting its cash level to around P14.9 billion and facilitating the debt reduction program.

ICTSI sold its stake in IIHC, which operates eight container terminals in six countries—Argentina, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Pakistan, Tanzania and Thailand—to retire its dollar convertible notes and raise fresh funds to pursue new port projects in the Philippines and abroad.

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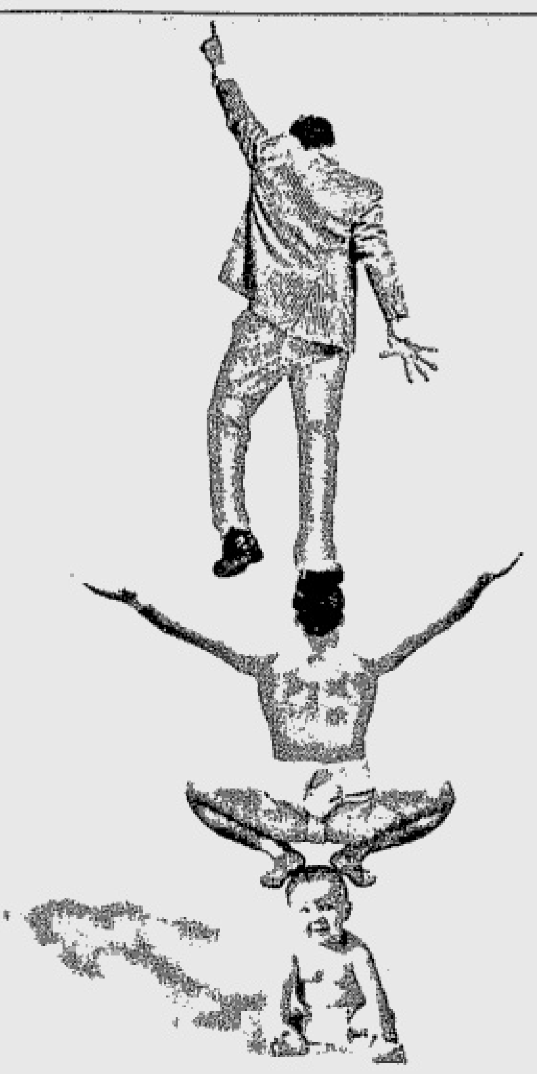

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Crestec Philippines, Inc. and its other offices strongly believe that it is an organization's responsibility to observe the laws of the country where it runs its business, especially laws relating to intellectual property rights. This responsibility must be undertaken seriously.

We fully support the cause of the Business Software Alliance (BSA), to which Microsoft Corporation is an active member, and the Government of the Philippines in continuously implementing education and enforcement efforts to promote the usage of legal software. It is through the full support of Government and private sector efforts such as these that the Philippines will continue to be considered a strong contender for foreign investment.

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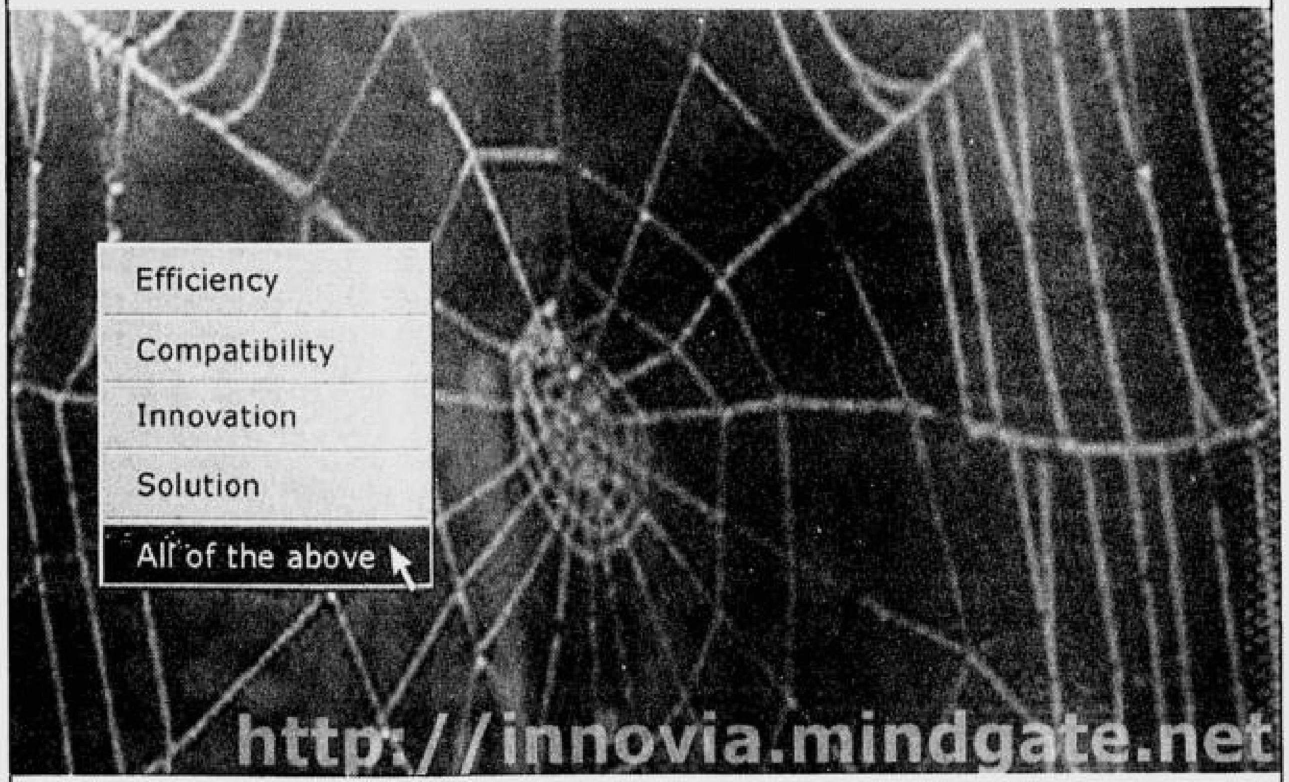

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SEC says let courts settle stock exchange's leadership squabble

By Doris C. Dumlao

THE SECURITIES and Exchange Commission is not inclined to intervene in the leadership row hounding the Philippine Stock Exchange.

This developed as newly elected PSE directors led by former PSE chair Robert Coyiuto formally asked PSE president Ernest Leung to step down from office, and the non-broker directors comprising the majority of the 15-member board to reconsider their decision to install Vivian Yuchengco as chair.

SEC Commissioner Juanita Cueto yesterday told reporters that the SEC's mandate over the PSE, which is a self-regulatory organization, was merely on oversight functions.

"These are allegations that they (Coyiuto's camp) have to substantiate. Let the courts decide," Cueto said.

Under the Securities and Regulation Code, the SEC has already relinquished its quasi-judicial powers on corporate disputes to the courts.

On the decision of the non-brokers to vote for chair during the PSE's first board meeting right after the board elections on Saturday, Cueto said there was no violation of the Securities Regulation Code as the non-broker directors had the right to vote.

In a separate interview, another high-ranking official said that on the issue of Leung's qualification as PSE president, the SEC had already agreed to waive the two-year prohibition against persons who had been affiliated or associated with any stockbrokerage.

The official said the SEC approved Leung's appointment as PSE president despite having been chair of DBP-Daiwa Securities SMBC Philippines Inc. until mid-2001 because the post was held merely as an ex-officio position when he was chair of state-controlled Development Bank of the Philippines.

Nevertheless, the SEC official said the corporate watchdog would look into the issues raised by Coyiuto's camp on Leung's appointment.

In a letter to Leung dated March 11, three PSE directors—Coyiuto, former PSE chair Harry Liu and Eddie Gobing—noted that the charter of DBP Daiwa vested the following powers and duties to the chair:

- To initiate and develop corporate objectives and policies and formulate long range projects, plans and programs for the approval of the board of directors;
- To represent the corporation at all functions and proceedings; and,
- To perform such other duties as are incident to his office or entrusted to him by the board of directors

"We hope that you will have the decency to resign because of your violation of the two-year ban," the three directors said.

In a separate letter addressed to the eight non-broker PSE directors (six of which voted Yuchengco as chair) dated March 11, the five directors under Coyiuto's ticket appealed for a review of Yuchengco's election.

"The Coyiuto group, as a gesture of goodwill and to maintain harmony within the exchange despite having the support of the majority of the stockholders, agreed to a common slate of non-broker candidates. They could have fielded their own independent-minded candidates and these persons would have won handily as all the group's broker-candidates did," the letter said.

Soap maker cleanses inside and outside of Filipinos

SUCCESS STORY

By Tina Arceo-Dumlao

DAILA's products are made of natural ingredients.

A RECENT survey on the buying habits of the Filipinos showed that even the poorest of families would give up buying a lot of things, but not soap, shampoo or detergents to clean their clothes.

And with 70 million Filipinos taking a bath every day and washing their clothes, there is a large market, thus, the decision by Ma. Aleli V. Pansacola of Daila Herbal Community Enterprises to sell soaps made of herbal and natural ingredients.

Pansacola said, however, in an interview that going into business was not exactly what she had in mind when she went into herbal medicine in 1986. The journalism graduate was in the computer business and herbal medicine was just a hobby.

The extensive knowledge that she gained from her travels led her, two sisters and civic society leader Junie Kalaw to conduct trainings on herbal medicine in partnership with the Philippine Institute for Alternative Futures. It was her outreach program that she conducted during weekends.

The farming and fishing communities who learned about the wonders of herbal medicine, however, felt that tending an herbal garden was not enough. They had to earn money somehow to augment their incomes.

"They asked us how they could earn from the herbs that they made so I did some research and I found out that there were a lot of companies that imported a lot of herbal essences. So that was what we did, we learned how to extract oils from the different herbs like citronella," Pansacola explained.

It was a long process to come up with the herbal essences that passed international standards but when they finally made it, there were no takers. This troubled Pansacola because there were companies that imported the herbal essences.

She studied at the Technology and Livelihood Resource Center to learn more about soap and detergent making and she learned that there was an industry out there that could make use of the different herbs that the small backyard farmers were growing and the coconut oil that the Philippines produces.

"I realized after the course that coconut oil was the best oil for making soap and yet most of the soap that we use today use other products like animal fat. This is ironic because the coconut industry is a dying industry so why not use the coconut oil to help these farmers and the herbs that we grow," Pansacola said.

She also found out that hard alkyl benzene which has been banned in other countries are still being used and dumped in the Philippines.

"Millions of Filipinos take a bath every day but this industry is not held by Filipinos. There are actually very few Filipino soap makers and yet we have the best ingredients for making soap and detergents," she added.

Pansacola, thus, put up the Daila Herbal Community Enterprises as a sole proprietorship in 1987. Her aim at that time was to make natural herbal soaps and promote its use. By 1991, it was incorporated with some friends who helped her in technology, organization and marketing.

With no money, no technology and no organization, but some knowledge from TLRC, she started playing around with soap in the kitchen, then in pails before she bought a 100-kilo mixer that she set up in her garage.

Pansacola started with a capital of P37,000 which included the ingredients for the first batch of soap that she would make during weekends and brought to communities the following weekend.

It was in 1994 when her products started winning awards and she finally came up with its own brands.

She named the bath soaps Daila and the laundry soaps Victoria Herbal. Da-ila is a prayer word that brings cleaning outside and inside.

By 1997, Pansacola got a loan from TLRC and set up a factory in Pila, Laguna, also a town where she started her herbal seminars.

From basic bath and laundry soaps, Daila now has other products including body oils, shampoos, personal care and household care products.

The initial team of Pansacola and her maid has grown to a workforce of 35 trained workers. From the backyard, the products are now available in SM Supermarkets, Shoppersville, Masagana, Pick and Pay, Ever, Mercury Drug Stores, Pioneer Center and I-Mart.

"What makes us different is that we adhere to our principle of being environment and health-friendly. We do not use synthetic chemicals in our products. Daila herbal came to be to give livelihood or enterprise to communities that will cleanse the world inside and outside," she says.

Fil-Estate refutes report of John Hay default

THE FIL-ESTATE unit operating the 247-hectare Camp John Hay tourism estate in Baguio has refuted claims of a government task force of non-payment of P721.45 million in back rentals, as well as other violations of lease terms.

Gina Alvarez, legal counsel and spokesperson of Fil-Estate-led consortium CJH Development Corp. (CJHDC), said the company was not defaulting on its obligations to the Bases Conversion Development Authority.

This developed as a task force formed by BCDA estate manager John Hay Poro Point Development Corp. earlier called for the termination of the Camp John Hay lease agreement with the Fil-Estate-led consortium on grounds of certain violations, including the alleged non-payment of rentals.

Alvarez explained that CJHDC had replied to demand letters issued by the Bases Conversion Development Authority in letters dated Feb. 11 and Jan. 15 this year, proposing to settle back rentals for 1999 and 2000 in accordance with the restructuring agreement under the July 14, 2000 memorandum of agreement.

Alvarez also said it served notice of continuing events and conditions that constituted "force majeure," referring to events not foreseeable at the time of the execution of the lease agreement.

"It bears to stress that the continuing events and conditions which constitute force majeure have placed CJHDC in a grossly disadvantageous position in that the original timetable for construction and development from 1996 to 2000 was overtaken by economic, political and natural developments that have unfortunately turned for the worse," she said.

"Moreover, these have resulted in opportunities lost and loss in public confidence in the project impacting on CJHDC's sales and revenues," she noted.

As such, Alvarez said CJHDC could not be "construed to be in delay or in default in respect of any obligation."

She also denied allegations that CJHDC violated the prohibition against the five-year hold-out period of the equity of Fil-Invest Management Inc. and Penta Capital Holdings Inc., which were likewise required to have an equity of not less than 35 percent in CJHDC.

Alvarez noted that the BCDA interposed no objection to CJHDC's request for approval of its proposed change in consortium members in May 2000 in as much as FEMI and PentaCapital's investment stood at 45 percent or way above the minimum equity requirement. *Doris Dumlao*

Music to cut debts with $5-M Micron deal

MUSIC Semiconductors Inc. said yesterday it expected to cut by three-fourths its debts following the sale of its newest technology to US computer chipmaker Micron Technology Inc. for $4.6 million.

In a disclosure, Music Corp., MSI's parent firm, informed the Philippine Stock Exchange that all the proceeds from the sale of MSI's ternary CAM (content addressable memory) next-generation chip technology to Micron would be used to retire about 70 percent of MSI's debts.

"MSI is now focusing exclusively on its highly profitable binary CAM business, from which it derived $120 million in revenues and $33 million in net profits during the past nine years," Music said.

Micron acquired MSI's ternary CAM technology on March 7.

Some stock analysts said MSI sold its ternary CAM technology at a loss as it spent about $5 million to develop it.

ePLDT drops plan to take in strategic foreign partner

EPLDT Inc. has dropped plans to tap a strategic partner, saying it is doing better than expected.

ePLDT managing director Ariel Roda said in an interview yesterday that the company found out that it knew more about the business than most firms it was dealing with.

Roda said there were at least five foreign companies that wanted to have a stake in ePLDT.

"After 16 months (of operation), ePLDT has enough revenues to sustain its monthly expenses," he said.

Roda said, however, that ePLDT could not yet talk of net income, as it would take about three years to get established in the business.

ePLDT is Philippine Long Distance Co.'s main vehicle for its Internet, e-commerce and multimedia businesses.

ePLDT operates "Vitro," the country's first industrial-scale Internet data center that provides information technology services to companies.

Vitro also caters to small and medium-scale businesses that need email, word processing, spreadsheets, data management and website hosting.

Roda noted that ePLDT's funding from its parent company had been slashed to P200 million this year from P1.6 billion in 2000.

"We would not be expanding our budget," he said. "We realized we can mix and match our existing resources."

ePLDT also yesterday announced that it has formed with Sun Microsystems Philippines Inc. a joint venture that will allow it to use SunPhil's "iForce" platform. *Ronnel W. Domingo*

CURRENCIES

March 12, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.141683	1.000000	51.0210
Japan	Yen	0.008896	0.007792	0.3976
United Kingdom	Pound	1.622445	1.421100	72.5059
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146390	0.128223	6.5421
Switzerland	Franc	0.680018	0.595628	30.3895
Canada	Dollar	0.721443	0.631912	32.2408
Singapore	Dollar	0.627678	0.549783	28.0505
Australia	Dollar	0.595246	0.521376	26.6011
Bahrain	Dinar	3.028498	2.652661	135.3414
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304441	0.266660	13.6053
Brunei	Dollar	0.625957	0.548276	27.9736
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000115	0.000101	0.0052
Thailand	Baht	0.026385	0.023111	1.1791
UAE	Dirham	0.310839	0.272264	13.8912
Korea	Won	0.000873	0.000765	0.0390
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.875900	44.6893
Brazil	Real	0.485823	0.425532	21.7111
Denmark	Kroner	0.134664	0.117952	6.0180
India	Rupee	0.023463	0.020551	1.0485
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.300443	0.263158	13.4266
Mexico	New Peso	0.126042	0.110400	5.6327
New Zealand	Dollar	0.488756	0.428101	21.8421
Norway	Kroner	0.129638	0.11355	5.7934
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019123	0.01675	0.8546
South Africa	Rand	0.099809	0.087423	4.4604
Sweden	Kroner	0.110273	0.096588	4.9280
Syria	Pound	0.026066	0.022831	1.1649
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032759	0.028694	1.4640
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001215	0.001064	0.0543

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Tuesday, March 12, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	10,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	69	69	67.5	68	256,800
China Banking Corp.	590	590	590	590	780
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14	14	3,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	32	34	32	33.5	1,646,000
First E-Bank Corp.	2.65	2.65	2.48	2.5	298,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	44	44	43.5	44	126,800
Philippine National Bank	60.5	60.5	60.5	60.5	1,900
Rizal Comm. Banking Corp.	12.5	13	12.5	12.5	17,700
Union Bank of the Phil.	20.5	21	20.5	20.5	115,800
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Bankard Inc.	1.3	1.3	1.3	1.3	50,000
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	20,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1370	1370	1370	1370	310
PCI Leasing & Fin. Inc.	0.82	0.84	0.82	0.84	60,000
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1045	1060	1045	1060	42,080
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	33	33	33	27,700
Digital Telecom Phils. Inc.	0.74	0.74	0.71	0.71	3,820,000
Globe Telecom Inc.	800	800	795	795	18,940
Ipeople Inc.	0.79	0.79	0.79	0.79	20,000
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	0.0625	19,000,000
Liberty Telecoms Holdings	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	40,000
Piltel	0.48	0.48	0.43	0.44	8,220,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	515	515	505	510	93,190
Ivantage Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	500,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.021	0.021	0.019	0.02	38,800,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	32	32	31	31	548,000
Manila Electric Co. B	44.5	45	43.5	44	1,746,500
Petron Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.8	1.8	3,500,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	30,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.48	2.55	2.48	2.55	2,263,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	60,000
Negros Navigation Co. Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.155	0.155	100,000
William, Gothong & Aboitiz	1.6	1.78	1.6	1.78	80,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	1,000,000
Phil Nat'l Const. Corp.	5.6	5.6	5.6	5.6	5,000
Republic Glass Hldg. Corp.	1.52	1.52	1.52	1.52	88,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	10,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Alaska Milk Corp.	2.12	2.12	2.1	2.1	191,000
Cosmos Bottling Corp.	5.7	5.7	5.7	5.7	2,000
Jollibee Foods Corp.	13	13	12.5	12.5	336,000
La Tondeña Distillers Inc.	23.25	23.25	23	23	78,700
RFM Corp.	1.56	1.58	1.54	1.54	3,235,000
Swift Food Inc.	2.1	2.2	2.1	2.2	56,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	48	48	195,200
San Miguel Corp. B	64	64	61.5	62	238,900
HOLDING FIRMS					
Ayala Corp.	6.6	6.6	6.5	6.5	4,932,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	2.04	2.04	1.98	1.98	2,571,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.73	0.73	0.73	0.73	20,000
APC Group Inc.	0.125	0.125	0.12	0.12	1,080,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	22,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.35	0.35	0.32	0.32	340,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.4	3.45	3.1	3.15	1,064,000
Baguio Gold Holdings Corp.	0.48	0.48	0.48	0.48	30,000
Balabac Resources & Hldgs.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	30,000
Boulevard Holdings Inc.	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	170,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.76	0.77	0.73	0.77	12,900,000
A Brown Company Inc.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	5,650,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	60,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.29	0.29	0.28	0.28	1,690,000
Ebecom Holdings Inc.	0.105	0.105	0.1	0.1	13,500,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	512,000
First Phil Hldgs. Corp.	32	32	31.5	31.5	913,700
Global Equities Inc.	0.155	0.155	0.15	0.15	1,550,000
Ionics Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.8	7.8	33,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.86	1.86	1.86	1.86	155,000
Megaworld Corp.	0.85	0.85	0.85	0.85	2,610,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.65	0.65	0.65	0.65	100,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.31	0.31	0.29	0.29	15,130,000
Music Corp.	0.34	0.35	0.31	0.31	1,850,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	50,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	110,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	630,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.3	4.3	4.3	4.3	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	150,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.28	0.3	0.28	0.3	2,050,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Interphil Labs Inc. B	0.91	0.91	0.91	0.91	10,000
Picop Resources Inc.	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	700,000
Pryce Corp.	0.1	0.11	0.1	0.11	1,000,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	8,500
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.5	0.5	0.5	0.5	3,620,000
Mondragon Intl Phils. Inc.	0.42	0.45	0.41	0.42	2,220,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp. (Pdr)	33.5	33.5	32.5	32.5	195,500
DMCI Holdings Inc.-Pref.	785	785	775	775	600
Equitable PCI Bank-War	1.7	1.7	1.7	1.7	30,000
Globe Telecom Hldg. (Pdr)	785	785	780	780	13,350
Jollibee Warrants	12.75	12.75	12.75	12.75	10,000
RFM Corp.-Pref.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series U	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	300
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series X	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	1,100
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Z	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,200
Philweb.Com Inc.-Warrants	0.0055	0.0056	0.005	0.005	36,000,000
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.8	6.9	6.7	6.7	8,175,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	100,000
Cebu Holdings Inc.	0.38	0.38	0.38	0.38	10,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	290,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.49	0.49	0.46	0.47	10,010,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3,370,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.06	2.14	2.04	2.14	10,910,000
Kuok Phil. Properties	0.11	0.11	0.1	0.1	1,000,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.36	0.39	1,440,000
Phil Realty and Holdings	0.09	0.09	0.09	0.09	300,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.5	6.5	6.3	6.4	12,417,000
MINING					
Atlas Cons. Min & Dev't.	2.4	2.4	2.4	2.4	20,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.042	0.042	0.039	0.039	23,200,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	8,000,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	450,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co. B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	110,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	11,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	1,000,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	8,900,000
Interport Res. B	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	0.0044	1,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.005	0.005	0.0048	0.005	86,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
The Philodrill Corp. B	0.25	0.25	0.25	0.25	50,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.014	0.014	0.014	28,000,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000

	SHARES	VALUE (P)
Banks & Fin Svc	2,650,170	126,331,450.00
Comm'l & Ind'l	220,023,480	329,963,710.00
PRO	48,022,000	164,738,660.00
Mining	43,780,000	1,460,200.00
OIL	135,150,000	1,081,900.00
GRAND TOTALS:	449,625,650	623,575,920.00

AVERAGES

Banks & Fin Svc	570.58	DOWN 1.77
Comm'l & Ind'l	1,895.69	DOWN 30.13
PRO	596.92	DOWN 14.91
Mining	1,321.53	DOWN 42.23
OIL	1.82	UP 0.04
All Shares Index	753.71	DOWN 8.01
Composite	1,368.86	DOWN 20.55

NO. OF ADVANCES: 19; NO. OF DECLINES: 67; NO. OF UNCHANGED: 32; NO. OF TRADED ISSUES: 118; NO. OF TRADES: 3,368

DISCLOSURES

TRANS-ASIA Oil and Energy Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 15, 3 p.m., at Ballroom 1 of the New World Renaissance Hotel in Makati. Stockholders as of March 15 are entitled to vote.

* * *

MEGAWORLD Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on June 21.

* * *

UNIVERSAL Robina Corp. will increase the number of its directors from seven to nine.

* * *

SM Development Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 24, 4 p.m., at the ballroom of the Mandarin Oriental Hotel in Makati. Stockholders as of March 25 are entitled to vote.

* * *

INTERNATIONAL Container Terminal Services Inc. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on April 18, 10 a.m., at the Rigodon Ballroom of the Peninsula Manila Hotel in Makati. Stockholders as of March 8 are entitled to vote.

* * *

ROBINSONS Land Corp. will hold its annual stockholders' meeting on May 30, 4 p.m., at the Amorsolo Room of Manila Galleria Suites, Pasig. Stockholders as of April 30 are entitled to vote. ***Compiled by Maricar D. Tolosa, PDI Research***

Japan will avoid crisis in March, says minister

TOKYO—Japan has taken sufficient steps to escape a financial crisis this month, a top minister said Tuesday, but analysts warned banks remain hobbled by massive bad loans.

Some analysts had predicted a banking crisis this month as bad loans mounted, banks lost huge amounts on their share investments at the March fiscal year-end and depositors deserted weaker banks ahead of the partial lifting of a government guarantee on bank deposits.

"We have already taken enough measures to prevent a so-called March crisis, including concerns over the payoff (limited deposit-insurance) scheme,"

Chief Cabinet Secretary Yasuo Fukuda told a regular news conference.

The government will replace a blanket guarantee on bank deposits with a cap of at 10 million yen ($78,000) on most from April.

The government has tried to shore up public confidence in the banking system by announcing a special bank will be created by late March to take over operations at collapsed lenders.

Tokyo has also promised to pump 2 trillion yen by March 2003 into a stock-buying body created to buy some of the banks' massive share portfolios and reduce their exposure to volatile share price swings.

It will also beef up operations at the state-run Resolution and Collection Corp.—a bad-loan buying body—to accelerate write-offs of non-performing loans.

The moves, along with tighter restrictions on short-selling, have helped fuel a recent stock market rally, which has seen the headline Nikkei-225 index rise around 20 percent in the past month.

But fundamentally, the problem of bad loans held by banks is unchanged, said Hirokazu Yuihama, senior strategist at the Daiwa Institute of Research.

"Considering that, the market will likely stay in a correctional phase after April," he said.

Japanese banks are sitting on an enormous pile of bad loans—36.8 trillion yen according to Tokyo's conservative estimate, while some private analysts say the real total is over five times higher.

The government is pressuring banks to write off bad loans, cited as a root cause of Japan's economic slump, but observers say it must also inject public money into banks as more loans turn sour.

The government has said it would only bail out banks if a financial crisis erupts and was likely to use the recent stock market rally as evidence the economy was in better shape than previously feared, said analysts.

But the rally would only temporarily defuse the ticking bad debt time bomb, they warned.

AFP

Shippers UPS, FedEx gaining from US economy

MIAMI—One sign that the recession is ending could be the truck parked at your front door.

When the brown-uniformed drivers from United Parcel Service Inc. jostle for parking spaces with their competitors from FedEx Corp., investors may take it as proof that the economy is on the mend.

Wall Street has long watched the progress of transport companies to gauge the pace of recoveries, based on the view that shipping concerns tend to get busy quickly whenever business activity heats up.

"There's a perception out there that the economy is rebounding, and transportation is generally seen as a leading-edge sector," said analyst James Winchester of Lazard Freres & Co.

Judging from recent stock-price highs for UPS and FedEx, Wall Street sees US business improving after a nearly year-long recession and the big shippers ferrying more and more computer parts, mail-order clothing, documents and other packages in the months ahead.

The optimism also shows in the strong gains of the Dow Jones Transportation Average, which often bounds ahead of the rest of US stock market as a recession winds down. The transports have jumped more than 13 percent so far this year, although on Monday, the index was off 25.55 at 2,984.9, near its year-high of 3,051. The Dow industrials, by comparison, are up just over 5 percent.

Analysts say the uptrend in the shipping companies could continue.

"The current aggressive level of monetary and fiscal policy stimulus, combined with lower energy costs, should be enough to create a significant rebound in tangible goods flow," A.G. Edwards analyst Donald Broughton said.

Reuters

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Survey shows 1.1M job cuts since attacks

WASHINGTON—US workers are switching loyalties away from employers who have announced 1.13 million job cuts since the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks, an industry survey showed Monday.

As their faith in big companies was eroded and their priorities changed, people were switching to jobs for fulfillment more than pay, said outplacement firm Challenger, Gray and Christmas.

"Six months after the attacks, workers are searching for rewards beyond salary," said the firm's chief executive, John Challenger.

"They show a greater desire for jobs that are meaningful and relevant and that fit into their newly rearranged life priorities and they are willing to take calculated risks, even prolong unemployment, in order to find the ideal situation," he said.

US employers announced 1.13 million job cuts from Sept. 11 to the end of February, the survey showed, with the average monthly job-cut total rising 40 percent.

Job searches lengthened by 64 percent as both employers and job seekers took a more cautious approach.

The proportion of people switching from one industry to another surged 45 percent and the number of job seekers winning equivalent or better salaries fell to a 15-year low.

"The trends indicated by this survey could have a significant impact on corporate America as everything gets turned upside down," Challenger said in a statement.

"High-paying professions that were once coveted by job seekers may now lose people to lower paying positions that provide more job security, more flexibility, greater personal or emotional satisfaction and are perceived as making a more meaningful contribution to society."

The US unemployment rate fell to 5.5 percent in February from 5.6 percent the previous month as job numbers expanded by 66,000, capping a barrage of bullish news this month.

But Challenger said a sharp rebound in employment was unlikely.

"A quick hiring rebound is unlikely, since employers generally wait for a broad economic recovery to take hold before boosting payrolls again," he said.

"But the caution demonstrated by employers in terms of hiring is mirrored by job seekers who are more concerned than ever about finding the best work situation that matches their newly reorganized life priorities."

After enjoying record low job search times of 2.1 months in the second quarter, Challenger data showed it took job seekers 3.04 months in the third quarter and 3.39 months in the fourth quarter to find jobs.

"For many, Sept. 11 was a wake-up call. There is a greater willingness to accept lower pay if it means greater flexibility to balance work and family. It reminded a lot of people about the importance of friends and family over career," Challenger said. *AFP*

Report says Andersen talking also with Ernst and Young

LONDON—Accountancy group Arthur Andersen, struggling in the wake of the Enron scandal, is also negotiating a possible sale of its business to rival Ernst and Young, the Financial Times reported Tuesday.

On Monday, a source close to sales talks said the company was also in talks with another main rival, Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu.

The Financial Times said a deal between Anderson and one of the two rival companies would be announced within days.

An accord would reduce the number of worldwide auditing companies to four, a prospect the paper said has already set alarm bells ringing for European and US competition regulators.

Andersen's reputation has been battered by the collapse in December of former client Enron, and faces an array of investigations into its accounting practices. *AFP*

World Bank says foreign aid works for poor, more needed

WASHINGTON—Foreign aid works better than ever in lifting people out of poverty and more is needed, the World Bank said in a study released here Monday.

The findings were released a week ahead of a United Nations gathering of world leaders in Monterrey, Mexico, to discuss how rich countries should finance development in poor countries.

In 1990, $1 billion in aid helped an estimated 105,000 people rise above the poverty line of $1 a day, but that same amount of aid helped 284,000 people achieve the same in 1997-98, the study said.

The same value of aid provided through the World Bank's soft loan program, the International Development Association, helped 434,000 people emerge from poverty, it said.

"People in developing countries are much healthier and better educated today than they were 50 years ago," said World Bank chief economist Nicholas Stern.

"When we use what we have learned aid works. The time is right for rich countries to enter into a deep and lasting partnership to promote development and build a more inclusive world."

World Bank president James Wolfensohn last week stepped up pressure on rich countries to double their aid with an extra $50 billion a year, in order to halve poverty by 2015.

He urged countries to step up aid by $10 billion a year for each of the next five years. In total, it would only cost an extra 0.2 percent of rich countries' income, he said.

In past decades, aid helped improve policies in countries ranging from South Korea to Botswana, the World Bank study said. More recent beneficiaries included China, Poland, Uganda and Vietnam.

Aid worked best when carried out by the countries most committed to development, said the study, titled "The Role and Effectiveness of Development Assistance."

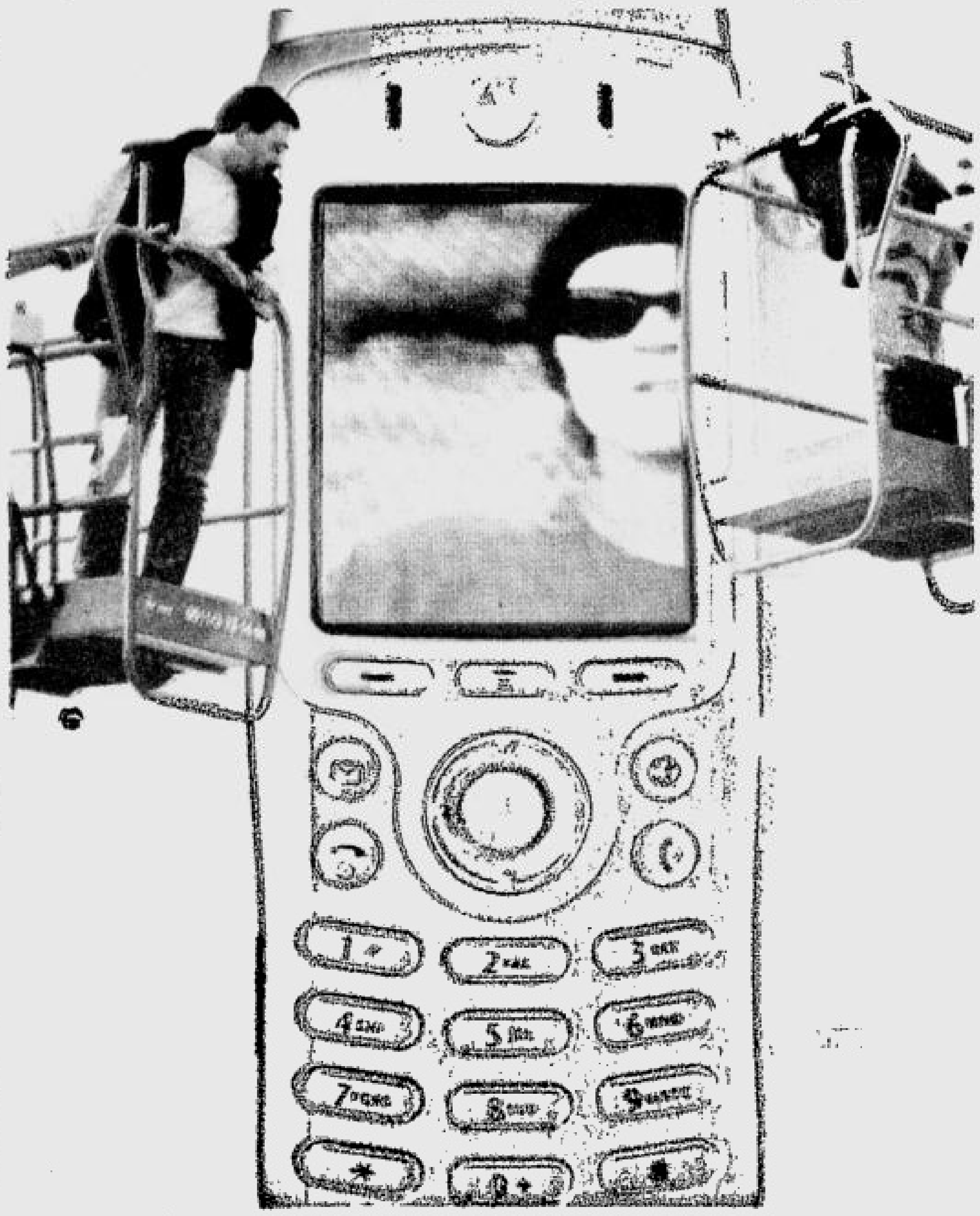
"Still, while human development has proceeded on an unforeseen scale, progress has not been uniform across the globe," it said.

"Nor has development assistance always been effective," the study conceded.

"AIDS reduced life expectancy in sub-Saharan Africa by three years in the 1990s and average incomes in the region have been stagnant since 1965."

Many Eastern European and Central Asian economies in transition to market-based systems had suffered sharp rises in poverty during the 1990s, the study said.

Some structural adjustment programs in the 1980s failed to pay enough attention to countries' commitment to reform, the need for good government and the social impact of dramatic changes, it said. *AFP*



AXEL Kronberg (left), and Stefan Schmidt fix an oversized UMTS mobile phone by Motorola at the booth of the mobile phone company on Sunday during preparations for the CeBIT computer fair at the exhibition center in Hanover, northern Germany. The world's largest fair for telecommunications and information technology opens its doors to the public from March 13 to 20, 2002. AP

Taiwan to offer 5-year tax break to manufacturers

TAIPEI—Taiwan's top economic planning body has proposed offering tax incentives to manufacturers to boost the island's sagging economy, officials said Tuesday.

Any investments by manufacturers in 2002 and 2003 would not be subject to business tax for five years under the proposal, said officials from the Council for Economic Planning and Development (CEPD).

The proposed tax incentives were aimed at expanding Taiwan's manufacturing industries, which accounted for 26.4 percent of the island's gross domestic product (GDP) last year, down from a peak of 39.4 percent in 1986.

Officials said the measures would hopefully encourage manufacturers to maintain operations on the island. Many have been shifting production to rival China to take advantage of cheap labor and land.

The CEPD officials said Taiwan would not be able to achieve its targets of 2.7 percent economic growth and restricting unemployment to 4.5 percent if manufacturing remains sluggish.

"The tax incentives are to encourage manufacturers to reduce costs by enhancing their expertise amid the economic recession," a CEPD official told AFP.

The measures would also help bolster domestic investment and cut unemployment, which stood at 5.14 percent in January, he said.

Taiwan already offers tax incentives to hi-tech and emerging strategic industries.

The CEPD would make the proposal to the Cabinet before seeking parliamentary approval, officials added. *AFP*

Cruelty of online bust continues: it's now ordinary, middle-class

SAN FRANCISCO—It's been one setback after another in the boom and bust online world. But the cruelest insult of all, that the Internet is now ordinary and middle-class, has sent Internet hipsters reeling.

"I almost thought about jumping off the Golden Gate when I heard about it," wailed tattooed software engineer Mary Neilly, musing a plunge from the famous San Francisco bridge. "It really is a depressing development."

San Francisco has been engulfed by its share of social movements, welcoming hippies and free love in the '60s and the gay revolution of the '70s.

In the 1990s, spurred by growth in Silicon Valley to the south, the city by the bay birthed the Internet cultural revolution. Young people with dyed hair and pierced appendages flocked to write code for the hundreds of start-up Internet companies that promised to make capitalism cool.

Chronicling the movement was Wired magazine, which fed its young workers organic, vegan lunches and staged drug-soaked raves celebrating its technology-fueled makeover of the old order. In its first issue, Wired bragged that the digital revolution created cultural upheavals so immense "that their only parallel is probably the discovery of fire."

The magazine predicted the president of the United States would be rendered obsolete as would newspapers, replaced instead with personal online editions called "The Daily Me."

Wired subsequently achieved another milestone as the first Internet venture to fail spectacularly, after investors quashed its initial public offering and killed expansion plans, forcing the sale of the magazine to the boringly mainstream Conde Nast chain.

Like lemmings off a cliff, hundreds of Internet companies followed Wired's example, as investors wised up to the realization that wild promises of Internet potential were not backed by viable plans for profit.

These days, San Francisco is pockmarked with the empty offices that once housed the vegetarian workers.

Telling someone you work for a dot-com these days, said one bartender, "is like saying you're an insurance broker."

Last week, cool finally slipped from the fingers of the young, hip and alternative.

According to a leading technology consultancy, the Internet is now an everyday utility for America's middle-aged middle class. What was once cutting edge is now ordinary, said New York's Jupiter Media Metrix, predicting most Internet shoppers in the next five years will be 35 years-old or older and earning between $30,000 and $75,000 annually.

Further insult was wrought by the Pew Internet and American Life Project, which reported a decline in the number of email users, who were using the once-revolutionary technology to accomplish mundane tasks like booking flights and checking stock portfolios. *AFP*

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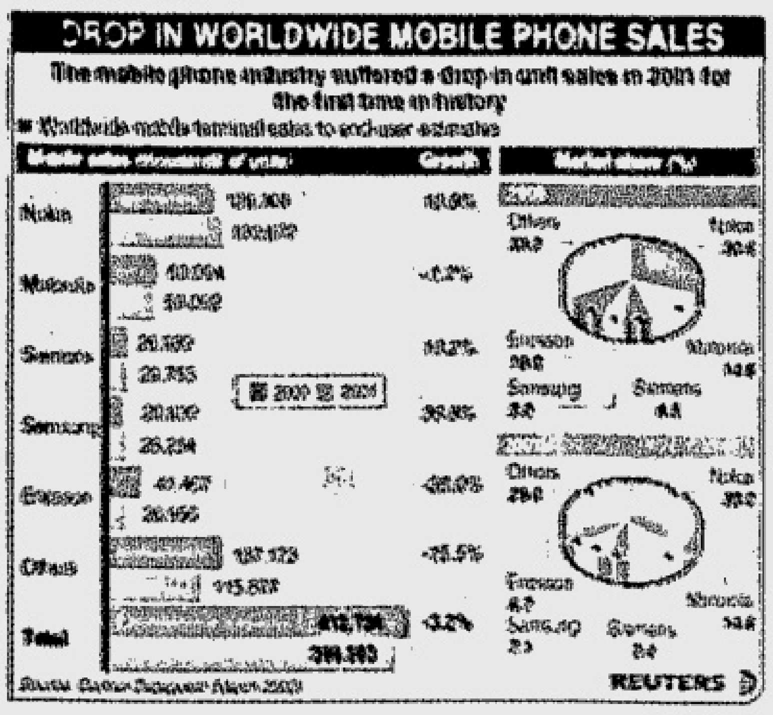

MOBILE SALES. Illustrated graph showing the worldwide mobile phone unit sales by manufacturer for 2001 and 2001. The mobile phone industry suffered a drop in unit sales for the first time in its history.

Global sales of cellular phones drop in 2001 for first time ever

NEW YORK—For the first time, worldwide sales of new cellphones dipped last year as wireless carriers reduced subsidies for new phones and many consumers held off on upgrades, tech consultants Gartner Dataquest report.

The decline was 3.2 percent, from 412.7 million handsets in 2000 to 399.6 million in 2001. That is a sharp break from the growth rates between 1996 and 2000, when each year saw a sales increase of 60 percent, Gartner said in Monday's report.

In the near future, the industry can expect percentage sales growth "on the order of small single digits, or, to be extremely optimistic, the low double digits," said Gartner analyst Bryan Prohm.

Most of the decline was in western Europe, where cellphone use is already nearly ubiquitous. Phone companies decreased their discounts for new cellphones with prepaid calling plans, a money-losing strategy that had turned into a cheap way for consumers to upgrade their handsets, Prohm said.

Sales were up in North America despite a mild recession in the United States.

The first cellphones to use the next generation of wireless services, launched in Europe and Japan, failed to find many buyers—despite promising features like improved Web access.

Prohm said consumers were looking for "real improvements over older models" before they will upgrade. He said recently introduced phones with color displays could lead to a revival of the market.

Gartner's numbers showed:

- Finland's Nokia Corp. extending its lead among cellphone makers with a 35 percent market share in 2001, up from 30.6 percent in 2000.

AP

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EU farm commissioner hits out at 'erratic' attempt by US to reform agriculture policy

GENEVA—European Union Farm Commissioner Franz Fischler hit out here on Monday at what he called the "erratic" way in which the United States was attempting to reform its agricultural policy.

Stressing that the EU had been consistent in its internal reform since 1992, Fischler said he found aspects of US policy "worrying," including the farm bill currently under discussion.

"Steady progress of reform is, I am sure, the right way. I have to say that I am worried by the more erratic course which the United States seems to have been pursuing," Fischler told reporters.

The US bill, to be decided by Congress this month, foresees increasing agricultural subsidies for producers of cereals and cotton and includes the provision of an additional $74 billion over 10 years.

Fischler said the European Commission believed the way much of the money would be paid was a "step backwards and not a step in the right direction" because it was "clearly linked to production."

He also said the EU would next month unveil "a fundamental reform of the whole European fisheries' policy," including new policies on conservation, a reduction in fleet size and an action plan against illegal fishing.

"We will base—more than in the past—our decisions about fishing quantities on scientific advice. This will be the basis for the volumes of catches per year," he told reporters.

The EU commissioner warned that the 144 members of the WTO now needed to show "give and take and not just take and take" in the current negotiations on further liberalizing agriculture.

He said the EU had supported more market access provided it was done in a way in which all countries could benefit and protected geographical indications such as Roquefort cheese and Parma ham.

AFP

American Home Products changes name to Wyeth

MADISON—American Home Products changed its name Monday to Wyeth, a move that signals the firm's refocusing on its pharmaceuticals business.

The company chose the name of one of its subsidiaries, Wyeth Laboratories, but the parent company has been known as AHP for 76 years. The Wyeth labs were founded in 1860 and acquired by AHP in 1931.

"We are changing our name to reflect an important transition in the company's history," said president and chief executive Robert Essner.

"Over the years, we have strategically evolved from a holding company with diversified businesses to a world leader in research-based pharmaceutical products."

"The Wyeth name, with its long and well-respected association with the healthcare community, better conveys the skills of our people, the promise of our science, the quality of our products and our position as a world leader in the pharmaceutical industry."

The company had 2001 revenues of some $14 billion and is known for the drug brands Premarin, Effexor, Advil, Centrum and Robitussin.

The move turns a page in the history of the firm, which got a black eye in the 1990s as a result of studies that linked its diet drugs, including Redux and Pondimin, to heart problems.

The products were pulled off the market in 1997 and the company settled lawsuits in 1999 for a total of $3.75 billion.

Wyeth shares, trading under a new symbol WYE, were off one percent at $61.32 in midday trade.

AFP

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Patrick buys half of Bronson's Virgin Blue

SYDNEY—Australian transport company Patrick Corp. has agreed to buy half of carrier Virgin Blue from British entrepreneur Richard Branson for 260 million dollars ($135 million).

In a joint statement issued Tuesday amid intense market speculation that a deal was imminent, Patrick Corporation said it had signed an agreement to buy 50 percent of the budget carrier.

The move is the latest in a series that have re-shaped the face of Australia's commercial aviation industry since last September.

The final demise of Ansett Airlines earlier this month effectively reduced the local market to a duopoly divided between dominant carrier Qantas Airways and Virgin Blue.

Between them, the two airlines control 85 and 15 percent respectively of passenger numbers along major domestic trunk routes in Australia.

The joint statement said: "Patrick Corp. will pay 260 million dollars for its shareholding.

"Depending on capital requirements, which are yet to be determined, part of this payment may be for new capital for Virgin Blue and the balance as consideration for existing shares.

"A further consideration may be payable dependent upon the performance of the Company over the next three years."

AFP

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SM MEGAMALL, MANDALUYONG CITY
☎ 6350219 ☎ 6872354 ☎ 6872366 Fax 6350220
G/F TRINITY BLDG., 636 T.M. KALAW ST., ERMITA, MANILA
☎ 5273342 ☎ 5280183 ☎ 5276357 Fax 5280213
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REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

COMML/RESDL

MANILA

5Door Apt. Gov. Forbes Samaploc Call 634-1212

VARIOUS AREAS

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HOUSE & LOT

MARIKINA

Grnind bnew 3br 2M 9487112

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Ayala Alabang 900m²/700m² /500sqm Neg 0917-5282174

PASIG

Greenwoods Exec. Village 4br fam rm 4 tb maids rm P3.5M Tel. 642-9678 Dir Buyers

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• L280m² SMH Apo St., QC • C-Lot • 928-1469

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Bentley Park Subd LA108 FA100 3br2tb 09178174547

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Joann 912-5775

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CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

PROVINCIAL

Gold Rich Villas
Molino Rd., San Nicolas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 15,000

FORTE REALTY
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815-2144 776-4604
829-5081 961-7521
871-8318 713-3422
810-8019 893-4206
Welcome Brokers & Agents

HOUSE & LOT

OTHER AREAS

RUSHI Bacoor Cavite 344-LA 250-FA 5BR 2TB 2-Storey 3.7M Neg. Owners Leaving Call Francis 0917-2461579

LOT

ALABANG

ALABANG (0917)7918952

MANILA

MANILA A. RIVERA LA180 P6M • 0917-3310762

MUNTINLUPA

PLEASANT VILL w/proposed rd direct to FILINVEST ALABANG 477m² P4,500/m² SOUTH GREEN-HEIGHTS VILL 300m² P1.15M Vic 8903461 loc. 27

PASIG

Valle Verde 4 869 sqm Call 634-1212

QUEZON CITY

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Landing, Pilar Bataan 2,800m² (047) 237-2318 / 237-4054 Totoy

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OTHER AREAS

ALONG PACITA AVE LA228m² 4Bdrms 4T&B P2.7M Gigie/Vic 8903461 loc. 25 or 27

TOWN&COUNTRY Southville 209m² P680T Vic 8903461L.27

VISTA VERDE EXEC VILLAGE LA319m² P1.3M Vic/Gigie 8903461 loc. 27/25

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

MAKATI

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10T/mo. or 3Yrs No Int. or 10% D.P. LIPAT AGAD!
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BNew Thse 4sty/3br/3tb/grge P3.073M up 8903461 loc 34

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1.6M 4BR 2TB 120sqm Nr Edsa Starmall 0919-3902506

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

CONDO/TWNHSE/APT

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Initial DP: P 25,000

COASTAL WOODS VILLAGE
Ligas, Bacoor, Cavite
Initial DP: P 25,000

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FA 127 2br 2tb 1 Parking Crisanta Twr Call 634-1212

FA 235 sqm 3br 2tb 2Prkg Renaissance Call 634-1212

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3BR, 2-3T&B, Maids rm. Clubhouse, pool, garden, 2.2M to 4M Bnew units
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QUEZON CITY

158 sqm 3br 3tb P4M St. Ignatius Call 634-1212

Cubao Condo P1.3M 10% DP 9132224;9124428;4381161

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★HERITAGE PARK★ Resale Good Investment • 671-4421

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870m² Makati Lot w/tel office, bodega and work area good for Motor Shop etc 8908380, 8955532

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9 Hectares with FRUIT BEARING trees Call 8955632 8908380 8972466

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

APARTMENT

QUEZON CITY

2BR 1CG W/TB 913-59-97

SAN JUAN

Nice 2BR+Parking • 722-0978

HOUSE

PARANAQUE

.MGV Pque 2sty 5BR4TB w/phone 8445449 CP09195546915 Didi

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FARM/FISHPEN

REAL ESTATE FOR SALE

FARM/FISHPEN

FOR SALE

Fishpond for sale covering 133.2584 hectares with a fishpond lease agreement no. 425 located at Barrio Salhag, Rosario, Northern Samar, ask for details from:

Ms. Sally F. Bañga
Davao City
Tel. No. (085) 221-1140

Ms. Arlynn A. Torres
Makati City
Tel. No. (02) 817-0784/893-0487

REAL ESTATE FOR RENT

CONDO/TWNHSE

MAKATI

2BR2TB PKG+DUES P22T BR NEW MKT COND 8906750

PRINCE P Greenbelt Makati Exec FF Studio 878-8400

MANILA

3BR 3sty nr. LSalle 8992148

PASIG

Ortigas Center 2-3BR F/UF Several P30-60K • 723-2391

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Ground Flr. 289m²,
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Comm'l Ofc. space for rent
Lida 924-0720

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Mkt Bldg. M/F NoCurf/FF 8905331

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Ptamo 38/85/62/185m² 1st class 8903461 loc 34 or 19 ofc hrs

OFF Avenida Nr Raon 736-6516

Prime Com Space 400sqm Ideal Bar/Rest Pasay Rd 09198911750 5215621

STRATA 2000 w/AC Cubicles Ort. Ctr P200/m²(neg)2420922

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'94 Accord Matic Xcellent condition Call 913-7267 Roy

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BRDAL MB VANS 9296250

CITYWHEELS
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IT/HIACE 9136710/4333682

L300 77411356

L300 / Vans 578-8917(Roger)

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BUYING USED CARS 8990215

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Republic of the Philippines

OFFICE OF THE OMBUDSMAN

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BULLETIN OF VACANT POSITIONS

In Compliance of RA 7041

FACT-FINDING, INTELLIGENCE AND RESEARCH OFFICE

FACT-FINDING AND INTELLIGENCE BUREAU

GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER I

Item No. OMBA-GI01-52-1998; SG-26; Education: Bachelor of Laws, Experience: 3 years of experience in the practice of law, counselling, investigation/prosecution of cases, hearings of administrative/criminal cases, legal research or other related work; Training: None required; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR).

PUBLIC ASSISTANCE AND CORRUPTION PREVENTION GROUP

COMMUNITY COORDINATION BUREAU

ASSOCIATE GRAFT INVESTIGATION OFFICER II

Item No. OMBA-AGI02-2-1998; SG-18; Education: Bachelor of Laws; Experience: Six Months of experience in conducting community work systems studies/analyses, counselling, investigation or other related work; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: RA 1080 (BAR) or Education: Bachelor's degree relevant to the job; Experience: One year of experience in conducting community work, system studies/analyses, conselling, investigation or other related work; Training: 8 hours of relevant training; Eligibility: Career Service (Professional) Relevant Eligibility for Second Level Position.

FINANCIAL AND MANAGEMENT SERVICE

ACCOUNTING DIVISION

ACCOUNTING CLERK II

Item No. OMBA-AC2-1-1998; SG-6; Education: Completion of two years studies in college; Experience: None required; Training: None required; Eligibility: Career Service (Subprofessional) First Level Eligibility.

Interested applicants should submit on or before April 12, 2002 to the Human Resource Management Division, at the above address an application letter stating the position item applied for, duly accomplished Personal Data Sheet (CSC Form 212) 1" x 1" picture (colored), Certificate of Eligibility, Transcript of Records, Certificate of Seminar/Training attended (CSC accredited) and Certification from previous/present employment stating the position, actual duties and responsibilities.

EXTRAORDINARY DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

WINNER'S SECRETS AND WEALTH CREATING IDEAS WILL BE UNCOVERED

Residents of Laguna, Cavite, Parañaque and nearby towns/cities are invited to be one of our "Business Partners" and to join our

FREE REAL ESTATE *Selling Seminar*

March 17, 2002, 1:00-5:00pm
BARRIO FIESTA RESTAURANT
Real St., Pamplona, Las Piñas City
(along Zapote-Alabang Rd.,
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Limited only to 30 participants.
To confirm pls. dial 687-1362/932-3132/0919-225-5352 / 0918-352-4524. Cut this ads and present to registration in charge with your two(2) 1x1 ID picture for
FREE ACCOMMODATION.

5/F WESTAR Bldg., 611 Shaw Blvd., Pasig City
☎ 687-1362/932-3132/0919-225-5352/0918-352-4524

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Antique Aparador Circa 1910 Tel. 8477575

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WE BUY **ROLEX**
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1 HP Water Pump w/Pres. Tank P4T Call 634-1212

EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

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Ofc Staff 18-45yrs old w/ w/out exp Start ASAP 9134470 Rodny

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•OFC STAFF 913-4470 LYN

OFC. STAFF 7136116 JOSE

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Ofc Staff 9134470 Nike

ROBINS HOME DEPOT, INC. Now Hiring for FIELD and SHOWROOM PERSONNEL Call Joy Tel # 4164921

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late Mario Nieto Y Sanchez had been extrajudicially settled among his surviving heirs per Doc. No. 336; Page No. 68; Book No. I Series of 2002 by Maria Obdulia Vitug-Palanca Notary Public
(PDI-March 13,20&27, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
This is to inform that public that Mr. **SENEN ROMERO** residing at 1794 Don Pablo, Villa Doloros, Angeles City, Pampanga has ceased to represent SIGJOHN PHARMACEUTICAL CO., INC. effective February 19, 2002. Any transaction or private entered into by above person for and in behalf of the company will not be honored. SIGJOHN PHARMA

PUBLIC NOTICES

AUCTION SALE

NATION PAWNSHOP, INC., Poblacion, Meyc. Bulacan will sell all unredeemed pledges of Sept. 2001 on March 21, 2002 10am, Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

4 Ways 2 Earn 0919-7439808

CANDLEMAKING 0917-4572623

Travel N Earn From Home
earn-and-travel.com
•8531008 (0917)8901851•

Globe 9%Smart 11% 745-9351

Infant Kid, Teen, Adult Wear Inventory Sale 3738821

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS AND SAINT JUDE

May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.

Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.

St. Jude, worker of miracles, helper for the helpless, pray for us.

Say nine times a day for nine days. Prayer will be answered by the eighth day, it has never failed.

Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus and St. Jude, for favor granted.

PUBLIC NOTICES

PERSONAL

PRAYER TO BLESSED MOTHER (NEVER KNOWN TO FAIL)

O most beautiful flower of Mount Carmel, fruitful vine splendor of Heaven, Blessed Mother of the Son of God, Immaculate Virgin, assist me in this necessity, Oh star of the sea help me and show me, herein you are my Mother Oh Holy Mary, Mother of God, Queen of Heaven and Earth, I humbly beseech You from the bottom of My Heart to succor me in this necessity there are none that can withstand Your power. Oh show me herein You are Mother.

Oh Mary, conceived without sin. Pray for us who have recoursed to thee (3x).

Sweet Mother, I place this cause in Your hands (3x).

Thank you for Your mercy toward me and being mine.

Thank you Mama Mary for answering my prayers. Amen.

(This prayer must be said for three days and after three days, your

---

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION COMMISSION
Visayas Ave., Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 924-3119, 924-7971; 924-7977
Telefax No. 924-7973

VACANCIES

(In compliance with RA 7041)

No. of Vacant Positions	POSITION	SG	Education	Experience	Training	Eligibility
1	*Chief Meat Control Officer	24	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	4 years in position/s involving management and supervision	24 hours relevant training in management and supervision	RA 1080
1	Supervising Meat Control Officer	22	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	3 years of relevant experience	16 hours of relevant training	RA 1080
2	Senior Meat Control Officer	19	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	2 years of relevant experience	8 hours of relevant training	RA 1080
18	Meat Control Officer II	16	Doctor of Veterinary Medicine	1 year of relevant experience	4 hours of relevant training	RA 1080
10	Meat Inspector III	11	Completion of 2 years in College	2 years of relevant experience	8 hours of relevant training	First Level of Eligibility
1	Secretary	7	Completion of 2 years in College	2 years of relevant experience	8 hours of relevant training	First Level of Eligibility
1	Draftsman	6	Completion of 2 years in College or High School graduate with relevant vocational/ trade course	NONE	NONE	First Level of Eligibility
1	Livestock Inspector	6	Completion of 2 years in College	2 years of relevant experience	8 hours of relevant training	First Level of Eligibility
3	Bill Collector	5	Completion of 2 years in College	2 years of relevant experience	8 hours of relevant training	First Level of Eligibility

Deadline for submission of application - March 22, 2002

**As per CSC-MC No. 13, s. 1992 which state that: "Starting January 01, 1995. except for full-fledged lawyers and Doctors of Medicine, and all appointees to division chief position (SG-24) or equivalent rank must posses a masteral degree in addition to the eligibility and experience requirements"*

PAMANTASAN NG LUNGSOD NG MAYNILA
(University of the City of Manila)
Intramuros, Manila

INVITATION TO PREQUALIFY AND TO BID

All interested bidders are invited to pre-qualify and participate in a sealed bidding for the following projects:

I. Rehabilitation of Covered Walk
II. Rehabilitation of Gusaling Lacson
  a. Repair and Renovation from 2nd to the 5th Floors
  b. Supply and Installation of Air-conditioning System at the 6th Floor
III. Supply and Installation of Air-conditioning Units of the Graduate School building

8 units	2 TR	Split type, wall mounted, electronic control, SW-24 model
12 units	3 TR	Split type, floor mounted, electronic control SL-36 model
12 units	5 TR	Split type, floor mounted, electronic control, SL-60 model

For I and II.a: required PCAB Registration and Classification and/or license (minimum) Category C, Small B (IAC).

For II.b and III: only bonafide manufacturers, dealers and installers will be eligible and allowed to participate in the bidding and the work will be under the direct supervision of a Licensed mechanical Engineer.

Pre-qualification Information Sheet may be obtained from the Office of the Vice-President for Academic Affairs (527-7941 to 48 loc. 16), after paying the corresponding non-refundable fee, beginning **March 13, 2002,** 9:00 a.m. to 5:00 p.m. Duly accomplished forms together with the required pre-qualification statements/documents are to be submitted not later than **March 20, 2002.**

PLM reserves the right to reject any and/or all bids to waive any informality found therein or to accept such bids as may be considered advantageous to the University.

(Sgd.) **VIRGINIA N. SANTOS**
Chairman, Prequalification, Evaluation, Bidding, and Awards Committee

(PDI - March 13, 2002)

ERRATUM

In the ad of the Department of Agriculture, National Meat Inspection Commission, Re: **Vacancies** published in this paper **March 12, 2002,** logo used should have been:

REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
NATIONAL MEAT INSPECTION COMMISSION
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Pambansang Korporasyon Sa Elektrisidad
(NATIONAL POWER CORPORATION)

INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2002-07

Opening Date: April 1, 2002 - 10:00 AM
E-Bidding Date: April 3, 2002 - 9:00 AM

PB020211-PDEA7125 SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF FUEL (UNLEADED GASOLINE & DIESEL) Conforms with the quality standards prescribe under RA #8749 CLEAN AIR ACT (To be purchased thru Open-Ended Purchase Order for a period of nine months starting April, 2002).

Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **March 12, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable.

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents morning only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries please call 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - March 13 & 14, 2002)

PNOC PETROCHEMICAL DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
(A WHOLLY OWNED SUBSIDIARY OF THE PHILIPPINE NATIONAL OIL COMPANY)

11/F BA Lepanto Building
8747 Paseo de Roxas
1227 Makati City Philippines
Tel No (02) 841-0044
Telefax No (02) 810-6416
Brgy. Batangas Dos
Mariveles Bataan
Tel No (047) 244-7441
Telefax No (047) 244-5883

INVITATION FOR QUALIFICATION / ELIGIBILITY AND BIDDING

The PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation (PPDC) invites interested contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) in good standing to apply for qualification / eligibility and if subsequently found eligible, to bid for the following project described below:

I. Work Order No. : WSC-01-002
II. Project Title : Jetty Firefighting Facilities Modification Project (Module I)
III. Scope of Work : Supply of labor, materials, tools and other necessary equipment to complete the Phase I Works. Works to include supply and installation of the proposed remote operated fire monitor, relocation of existing fire motor and modification of fire main pipe.
IV. Project Location : Petrochemical Industrial Estate (PIE) in Limay and Mariveles, Bataan, Philippines
V. Approved Budget : Pesos Nine Million Two Hundred Six Thousand Five Hundred Seventy Nine and 47/100 (P9,206,579.47)
VI. Source of Funding : PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation
VII. Estimated Contract Duration : Two Hundred Ten (210) Calendar Days
VIII. PCAB License Minimum Requirement
Registration Qualifications
Kinds of Project : Mechanical Work and Water Supply
Size Range : Medium A Medium A
IX. Similar Contracts : Mechanical Works, Water Supply
X Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate Requirement : Pesos Nine Hundred Twenty Thousand Six Hundred Fifty Seven & 95/100 (P920,657.95)
XI. Eligibility Statement Forms : One (1) set each to be filled up and submitted for every project.
Cost of Forms : One Hundred Pesos each set (P 100.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : March 11-22, 2002
from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility Statements/ Documents : PNOC - Petrochemical Development Corporation
11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
or
PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation
Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan
c/o Site Administration Department
Deadline of Submission : On or before April 01, 2002 at 3.00 p.m.
XII. Notice of Eligibility/Ineligibility
Date and Time of Issuance : March 25 - April 22, 2002
from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3.00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation
11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XIII. Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : May 16, 2002 at 10:00 a.m.
Venue : PPDC Conference Room
PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation
Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan
c/o Site Administration Department
XIV. Bid/Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents : One Thousand Pesos each set (P1,000.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : April 23 - May 08, 2002
from 9:30 a.m. to 11:00 a.m. and 1:30 p.m. to 3:00 p.m.
Place of Issuance : PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation
11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
or
PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation
Petrochem Park, Batangas Dos, Mariveles, Bataan
c/o Site Administration Department
Deadline of Submission : On or before June 07, 2002 at 1:30 p.m.
Place of Submission : PNOC-Petrochemical Development Corporation
11th Floor, B.A. Lepanto Building, 8747 Paseo de Roxas, Makati City
c/o Legal, Contracts and Administration Department
XV. BID OPENING IN THE SAME VENUE WILL FOLLOW IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE DEADLINE OF SUBMISSION OF BIDS. LATE BIDS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.

Prospective bidders are required to submit original copy of Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate/s and original copies of pertinent documents such as Contractor's PCAB License, audited Financial Statements, etc. for verification/ authentication purposes.

All particulars relative to pre-qualification / eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids and award of contract shall be governed by the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Relations, as amended, and other applicable rules and regulations.

PPDC reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or informality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any bidders whose bid/s is/are considered most advantageous to PPDC. PPDC further assumes no obligation whatsoever to compensate or indemnify the bidders for any expenses or loss that may incur in the preparation of their bids nor does it guarantee that an award will be made.

(Sgd.) VICTORIO MARIO A. DIMAGIBA
BAC - Chairman

(PDI--Mar. 9, 13 & 18, 2002)

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March 18, 2002 (Monday)
MANAGING WORK-RELATED STRESS
Tita Datu Puangco, President, Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting, Inc., will discuss the sources of stress in the workplace and how living the present moment will help you achieve more with less strain. She will share the key to enjoying work which is living "the rainbow life" to ensure an integrated and balanced life.

March 19, 2002 (Tuesday)
SURVIVING WORKPLACE CHANGE
Lirio O. Mapa, Vice President, Center for Leadership and Change, Inc., will talk about how you can prepare yourself for changes. She will also tackle the paradigms and principles that can help you survive workplace changes.

March 20, 2002 (Wednesday)
LEADING ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE
Mark Mackenzie, Managing Principal, S & G International Consulting, Inc., will focus on how you can lead change, not just from the senior management perspective, but from those in all levels of the organization. He will discuss how different types of change are identified, measured and managed by all employees.

TIME: 5:30 p.m. - 8:00 p.m.
VENUE: Santiago Hall, Mezzanine, Equitable PCIB Tower 1, Makati Ave. cor. H. V. de la Costa St., Makati City, Metro Manila.

REGISTRATION FEES PER SESSION: P250 (balcony), P300 (orchestra) and P350 (patron). Early bird discount of 10%, Limited discounted tickets for teachers, gov't. employees (25%) & students (50%)

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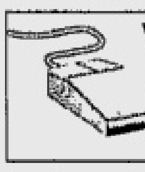

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> *"For God so loved the world, that He gave His only begotten Son, that whoever believes in Him shall not perish but have everlasting life."*
>
> John 3:16

Zeny Monzones Domingo

Born March 27, 1938

Peacefully joined her Creator
on March 5, 2002, 8:00 p.m., Los Angeles, U.S.A.

In Loving Memory of

Husband **Manuel C. Domingo**; children **Jimmy Deo** & **Denise, John Charles** & **Virginia** and **Manuel Louie**; grandchildren **Natasha** and **Justin**, **John Joseph**, **Christina** and **Nicole**; brothers **Nick**, **Benjie**, **Wally**, and **Meynard**; sisters **Gloria** (†), **Ched**, **Emma**, **Pin**, **Ludy** and **Mimi**; brothers and sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at the Nuestra Sra. Del Pilar, Memorial Chapel.

Interment will be on Friday, March 15, 2002 after the 1:00 p.m. Mass at the Our Lady of the Pillar Parish Church, Alaminos, Laguna.

RONALD D. MORENO

Beloved son of ***Dr. Jose D. Moreno*** *and* ***Luz Dalida Moreno***
peacefully joined the Lord on March 11, 2002 at the age of 58.

His wife **Lilian**; children **Ronnie** and **Amor**, **Kenjo** and **Vanessa**, **Keith** and **Mitchel** (†); grandsons **Paolo** and **Jom**; brothers and sisters **Ellen** and **Bob Ruperto**, **Danny**, **Louie** and **Joey Espejo**, **Edmond** and **Meyenne**, **Linda** and **Hector Chua**, and **Tina** and **Tercy Maramba** all request to pray for the repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state in Loyola Memorial Chapels, Inc., Makati City until Wednesday, March 13, 2002.

On Thursday, March 14, his remains will be brought to Roxas, Oriental Mindoro.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 17, 2002 in Roxas, Oriental Mindoro.

> **"...absent with the body to be present with the Lord."**
>
> Matthew 10:39

Our Dearly Beloved

GONZALO "Along" D. DURAN

Died in the Grace of our Lord on March 11, 2002 at the age of 78.

His loving wife **Maria**; daughter **Gloria**; son-in-law **Danilo**; nieces **Leonora** and **Corazon** and grandchildren **Hernani**, **Maria Trinidad**, **Maria Cristina** and **Maria Luisa**, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His body lies in state at #249 Bascal, Meycauayan, Bulacan.

Interment will be on Thursday, March 14, 2002 at Meycauayan Memorial Park at 3:00 p.m.

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NORMA M. ALAFRIZ

Peacefully joined our Lord
on March 10, 2002.

Her beloved children **Grace**, **Cecille**, **Yuri**, **Jet** and **Ruby**, **Lance** will surely miss her and her motherly concern.

We are happy with the thought that she is now with the Lord. May we ask for your prayers for the repose of her soul.

Her mortal remains lie in state at the Mary Immaculate Parish Chapel.

Interment will be today, March 13 at 3:00 PM at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

Engr. Ariel J. Cabayan

Died in the Grace of our Lord on 11 March 2002
at the age of 46.

His bereaved wife **Lilian**; children **Ayich** & **Aldred**, **Yca** and **AR**; grandson **Andre'**; other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of his soul.

His remains lie in state at Chapel 11, La Funeraria Paz, Araneta Avenue, Quezon City.

Interment will be on Sunday, March 17, 2002 at Holy Cross Memorial Park, Novaliches after the 2:00 PM Mass.

Our Dearly Beloved

CATALINA C. OASAN

Died in the Grace of our Lord
on March 10, 2002 at the age of 68.

Her bereaved children **Lani**, **Rudy**, **Henry** and **Albert**; son-in-law **Victor**; daughters-in-law **Suzie**, **Noelle**, and **Cel**; grandchildren **Anthony**, **Junjun**, **Jap**, and **Ken**; nephews, nieces, other relatives and friends request the pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her interment will be on Saturday, March 16, 2002 at the Candon Catholic Cemetery after the 10:00 a.m. Mass at San Juan de Sahagun Parish.

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Sucat Branch: 8187 Dr. A. Santos Ave., Sucat, Parañaque City
Tels. 826-1376; 826-9682; (0915) 712-1220
SANTUARIO DE SAN ANTONIO PARISH
Forbes Park, Makati City; Tel. Nos. 843-8838/30; Fax No. 843-9223
SANTUARIO DE SAN JOSE PARISH
East Greenhills, Mandaluyong City; Telefax 724-4139; 725-2044
ST. ALPHONSUS MARY DE LIGOURI PARISH
Magallanes Village, Makati City; Tels. 852-8228; 852-7284
ST. MARK MEMORIAL CHAPEL
16-15 G. Tuazon cor. Loreto St., Sampaloc, Manila; Tels. 749-3679; 781-1772
ST. PETER FUNERAL HOMES
296 Quezon Ave., Quezon City; Tels. 372-5084; 410-9286/87
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Tels. 831-3797; 844-7846; 843-1801; 845-4836
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DEAR WW: I just got offered a promotion. It's weird, but I'm not sure that I should take it. My pay would go up only a small amount and I'm not sure it's worth the extra grief.

Just Say No?

Swiss scientist with the World Wildlife Foundation recently made a startling discovery. If you want the purest, healthiest and best-tasting water, look no farther than your tap. Not only is the water often as good, but you'll be doing a favor to the environment because the water won't have to be bottled and shipped to you.

Tap water better than bottled water? Why next you'll be telling me that every promotion isn't worth taking. Yep, that's exactly what I'm saying. Ask yourself the questions below and check out "Employment Power" by Raymond Kevane (Peanut Butter Press, 1994).

WORKING WOUNDED

Bob Rosner

Does the new job fit with your career objectives? Sometimes management jobs are just that-all management. Too often we promote a great lawyer, engineer or teacher into a really mediocre manager. So take a hard look at where your career is headed and ask, does this promotion push me closer to the stuff I really want to do?

Are you ready for the new job? There are times where your company will give you time to grow into the new responsibilities. Others aren't that patient. So you have to look at both your expertise and their ability to develop talent.

Does the job come with what you'll need to succeed? This revolves around two main issues—budget and authority. Will you have the budget to succeed and will you have enough room to exercise your authority. Do some digging with the people who've previously held the job to see how much support, and slack, you'll be given.

Can you get the coaching/training you'll need? There is a darn good reason that in the phrase "sink or swim" the sink part comes first. Be sure that you'll have what you need to do the job. But remember that the support issue isn't just the responsibility of others. What can you do line up a coach who can support and advise you?

Will your extra contributions be rewarded? You've already observed that the pay increase isn't that great. Are there other payoffs that make the promotion worth taking? Sometimes you need to say no until the rewards line up with the responsibilities.

How will you need to change to be a success? It's a big leap to go from an employee to the boss. For one thing, you suddenly have to be much more aware of what you say and how you say it. And as one person recently wrote to me, you even have to be careful about who you eat lunch with-you don't want to be perceived as playing favorites. Are these changes that you are willing to make?

Ask yourself these questions and you won't be playing taps with your career by taking a promotion that you shouldn't.

Here are the results from a recent workingwounded.com/ABCnews.com online ballot: Would you ever turn down a promotion?

- —Yes, in a New York minute, 61.2 percent

—No, what are you crazy?, 19.7 percent

—Haven't been promoted yet, 18.8 percent

PROMOTION
JED E.
JED ESTRADA

Our winning strategy for dealing with a promotion comes from Joel P. in Cyberspace. "I took a promotion 27 months ago. Things were going good until my boss walked in and ended my 21.5 year career in two minutes as we were downsizing. The other four applicants who didn't get the job are all still employed and I am on the outside looking in. So my advice involves a tactic that is in keeping with the season; Make a list, and check it twice. Write down the positives and negatives of your current job and the one being offered. Get your spouse or significant other involved in the assessment; as they will feel the affects of your proposed change. After you've made your list and had your discussion, take a long walk and think about it and then follow your heart."

(Send feedback to *bob@workingwounded.com*)

The magic of a mom's balancing act

WE got front row seats to Neil Goldberg's Le Cirque. It was a breathtaking show where mind-boggling circus acts came wrapped in theater magic. Twin contortionists dressed in feline suits, a Mongolian in a seven-chair balancing act, a comic tandem poised on a rolling board, high-rope dancers swinging bird-like from a single rope dangling from the ceiling. The skill and amazing grace that the circus players brought to fore powerfully drove home for us the metaphor most used to refer to a working mom's greatest challenge—the balancing act.

WORKING MOM

An Mercado Alcantara

We became vividly reacquainted with skills required to keep your balance. All the acts were obviously meticulously planned. All details were factored in—each player's weight, height measurements, timing, counter-balance movements, and the theatrical illusions that mask difficult transitions. In varying degrees, the same meticulousness is required of us when we do our own working mom balancing act. Our attempt to integrate our work and family concerns should not be a haphazard come-what-may attempt, rather it should be carefully thought out and planned.

In a recent conference on Work-Life Harmony conducted by the Ayala Foundation in collaboration with the Personnel Management Association of the Philippines and funded by the Ford Foundation, our balancing acts were discussed in detail. CEOs, change managers, and human resource managers got together to identify what are the necessary knowledge, skills, and attitudes one needs to effectively balance his or her life's priorities. Following are the top three identified:

- **Discernment.** World famous high-wire artist Philippe Petit (who once put a wire between the Twin Towers of the World Trade Center and held New York mesmerized as he walked across it) spends years preparing for each act. He studies wind velocity, geography, as well as the history of each place. If we are to do our own balancing act well, we also have to spend time in discernment. We have to consistently examine our values vis-à-vis our priorities and plan accordingly.
- **Simplicity.** To achieve balance, we need to commit to simplicity. While Neil Goldberg's costumes and makeup came in striking patterns and colors, the silhouettes were streamlined. Players were not hampered by extra weight; their costumes allowed them to move freely. For working moms, often it is the must-haves that weigh us down. When we aim our sights on things we don't have yet, rather than on what we already have, we lose our balance. Elaine St. James author of the bestseller *Living The Simple Life*, says if we set our mind to it, we could surprise ourselves by how little we really need. If you need to work overtime because you want to get that new car, but your child is sick and needs you at home, what do your priorities dictate? Simplify.
- **Flexibility**. The contortionist's act sent shivers down our spine. They curled themselves into human pretzels, then positioned thus, one put her whole body weight on the other. They must have spent years trying to find out just how far their spines would bend and how much weight they could carry in that position. In the Work-Life Harmony workshop, one participant put it quite succinctly for working moms: if you know yourself, you know where to adjust. To be flexible enough to achieve balance consistently, you'll have to know instantly what you're willing to give up and what you're giving it up for.

Try your hand at these balancing skills. If you want to increase the opportunities for balance within and outside of your work, try taking these three steps. You'll be amazed at what feats you can do.

The secret of a great act, of course, is to be able to do all these and not let the hardship show. It is marrying the act with theater magic. If you've got your balance all figured out, but you don't look the better for it, the magic is lost. Create time to take care of yourself, so that you can weave your own magic.

(An Mercado-Alcantara is editor-in-chief of the magazine Metro Working Mom *published monthly by ABS-CBN Publishing. Get more working mom tips in the March issue of MWM with Eula Valdez and Jean Garcia on the cover.)*

'Should I shift courses?'

By Tita Datu Puangco

Advice

FOR THE ANXIOUS PERSON AT WORK

I AM 19 years old and currently studying in a state university in Mindanao. I read your column concerning confused parents who urged their daughter to study medicine but who wants to be a journalist broadcaster instead. I have the same problem. I'm the third among five children. My dad and mom are both Chemical Engineers. My dad is now working abroad and my mom is teaching in a college. I am taking up computer engineering.

"Like father, like son" This is indeed my father's principle. We are all males. He has very high expectations of us. He is a very strict disciplinarian. On the other hand, he is my role model; he is for me the best dad in the world.

I don't like the course I am studying now. My heart lies in broadcast journalism.

I cannot be like them. I am not motivated to study engineering. They keep on telling me there is no money in journalism. This hurts me, because I have so much difficulty with my course. I used to excel when I was in high school. Now in college, I can barely make the passing mark. I try very hard but it is the best that I can do.

Another thing, I feel insecure every time I go back to our home because I can see my brothers have a bright future.

I cannot leave my course because I am on a scholarship program. If not for the scholarship I would have shifted my course without their consent. My brothers are truly fortunate; they can choose what they want to be.

Mistaken Path

As I mentioned in my earlier column, parents do want the best for their children. But many times their idea of the best course for their child may not fit the child's vision, competencies or self-concept. But I realize that as children, we often have a great and overwhelming fear of our parents forgetting that they do want the best for us. We are so overtaken by fear that sometimes this fear paralyzes us into inaction. We have to put our fears in a more realistic perspective.

Build on strengths

What I would suggest is for you to think through what you really want. Check out your grades—where are your strengths and where are your weaknesses? It is always better to build on strengths rather than on weaknesses. Develop a vision of yourself in your dream job. Imagine yourself five years from now working on your dream job.

STEPH BRAVO

Then, do a reality check. Find out how many jobs will open up in the field that you desire in the future. I understand your parents are concerned about your future, whether you will earn enough to feed your future family. Do your homework and give them the facts. They are likely to respond favorably to something well researched than something conceptual. We all know that there is a big market for computer engineers and there is likely to be stronger competition for broadcast journalists in the country. Just count the limited number of television and radio stations in the country. Of course, with the entry of convergence technologies, new professions may emerge in the coming years. After doing your research and if you still think you have what it takes to succeed despite the threats and opportunities in your desired field, then take the next move.

Prepare for consequences

Now the scholarship is a sticky issue. If you are convinced about changing course, would you be able to work part time to support yourself? You have to be ready to take the consequence of your decision, just in case the family budget may not be able to support you without the benefit of the scholarship.

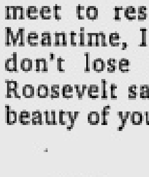
Then, you may not be able to assert yourself in person when talking to your parents. But you can write them a letter explaining what you think and how you feel. Do it in a respectful and caring tone. Tell them that you realize that it is their love for you that is driving them to want you to pursue engineering. But also take time to explain that your brain is differently wired. Share with them your dreams and aspirations. Explain to them why you will succeed if you shift your course.

I remember my own childhood. My parents were achievers, both with doctorate degrees, who placed a high value on education. It was drummed in my head that we cannot afford to fail, so getting a failing mark was not in our family culture. My sister got into a course that was not in line with her aptitude and abilities and so she failed some of her subjects. It was the end of the semester and she decided to tell my parents she was shifting to another course. I was so scared for her and I kept on praying that my parents would not make her stop studying. We were together then studying in a university in Manila. I had the wrong, and in retrospect funny, notion, that if one fails, then our parents will let you stay at home and do household chores.

Parental love prevails

I was present when she made the bold move. My parents listened with much love and attention. At the end of the conversation, they said they respected my sister's decision and she managed to change her course. I was really relieved at the outcome. I understood that my parents' love was greater than the family norm. It was a valuable lesson on life for me. Sometimes, we do not recognize this because at the foreground, which is therefore more visible, is their drive for excellence. Let us remember that at the background is much love and caring.

So, muster the courage and write the letter. If you cannot write to your Dad, then address it to your Mom. You want her to understand your side when you meet to resolve the problem. Meantime, I will pray for you, don't lose faith. As Eleanor Roosevelt says, "Believe in the beauty of your dreams."



(Ms Puangco is CEO and president of Ancilla Enterprise Development Consulting. Send comments, feedback or requests for advice through e-mail to ancillaedc@ pacific.net.ph or fax to 892-2902.)

Leaders with vision bring hope to their organizations

A LEADER is a dealer in hope and vision is what gives hope to organizations.

Webster's Ninth New Collegiate Dictionary defines vision as something seen in a dream, trance, or ecstasy; an object of imagination; the act or power of imagination; mode of seeing or conceiving; unusual discernment or foresight.

The last of nine leadership competencies that came out of the research done by authors Patricia Guggenheim and Mary Diana Szulc is Vision. In their book, "Understanding Leadership Competencies," they wrote, "We have concentrated on all the previous competencies so that you can assess your personal comfort level in each of them as a foundation for creating your vision. Without vision, there is little or no sense of purpose in an organization. Vision is building a personal commitment to values by creating visual images of the future. Peter Block defines vision as our deepest expression of what we want. It is the preferred future, a desirable state, an ideal state, an expression of optimism. It expresses the spiritual and idealistic side of our nature. It is a dream created in our waking hours of how we would like our lives to be.

"Thus, an organization's vision should embody the collective values and aspirations of its individuals. The whole group should hold a 'mental image' appealing to each individual's physical sense, emotional needs, and spiritual quests.

"Visions and intellectual strategies alone are insufficient to motivate and energize people at work. Sustained results come only if employees buy into a vision; they must believe that the leader's vision is their vision."

City with a vision

The authors cited the example of the city manager of Hampton Robert O'Neill Jr. who created a new vision for city government. The vision—to become the most livable city in Virginia—became a touchstone for city employees. It was even printed on their paycheck stubs.

Robert took the following steps to help build his vision:

RECIPES *for* LEARNING

Moje Ramos Aquino

- An annual citizen-satisfaction bonus was given to every city worker
- Each department had authority to develop awards for employee innovations and productivity improvements
- Seed capital funds were allocated to test innovative ideas
- Self-managed teams, multiple compensation plans, and Total Quality Management principles were applied
- Statement of organizational values held managers accountable for their behavior
- Venture teams went to other governments to find new ideas (competitive benchmarking)
- The city partnered with a neighborhood college to teach community groups how to participate in planning activities.

Hampton received the Virginia Municipal League's Award for Entrepreneurial Government for 1993 and Robert won a National Public Service Award for the American Society of Public Administration for "excellent achievement." Robert swept away the bureaucratic culture of Hampton and replaced it with organizational enhancements. In the hearts and minds of employees, bureaucratic culture was replaced by entrepreneurial culture.

Vision of a city

One outstanding local example is Marikina and its city executives, previously Bayani Fernando and now Marides Carlos-Fernando. Marikina used to be like any other major city or municipality here in our country. Dirty and sinister-looking; petty and murderous crimes abounding; dark, potholed and gloomy streets; unorganized and disorganized zoning; busy streets teeming with *istambays*, squatters, sidewalk vendors, hawkers, drug addicts, pimps and hookers; prone to flooding; brown and muddy instead of green and vibrant. Marikina is even booted about as the dumping ground of "salvaged" bodies. And remember the killer-floods that visited Marikina then?

Then came engineer Bayani Fernando. Voila! You should go to Marikina to see for yourself. Business executive Ito Carlos describes Marikina as a city for people to enjoy the environment and the surroundings. It is basically a meeting place for people from all walks of life. The whole development of Marikina is centered on the Marikina River. Like in the olden days, people go to the watering hole to refresh, to fetch water for living, and to meet other people. It is the appreciation and prudent use of nature.

Current City Mayor Marides Fernando is continuing the development and evolution of Marikina into a people-friendly city for its residents and visitors. The people of Marikina are contributing their fair share—they have become law-abiding and are ready to help their government and themselves. Trust is high in Marikina because people believe in the vision that the Fernandos have shown them and leading them into.

Vision at the personal level

What about your organization, barangay, town, municipality or city? Do you have a vision? Do the people in your organization understand how vision relates directly to them? Sometimes a vision can be viewed as so far-reaching that individuals cannot see the connection between the big picture and themselves. How about expanding this process further? How does your vision affect each person on an individual level? As a leader, how can you communicate your vision to your group, across areas and to the outside world?

My friends and I are now regular visitors of Riverbanks. It is not just a mall that sells brand new goods at bargain prices; it is a place to unwind, relax, meet people, stroll around, even take a boat ride, enjoy fresh air, listen and sing to good music and feel safe. Its other attraction for me is that those who provide services and goods do not take advantage. Remarkably, they keep their prices low and the service and quality high. Our favorite hangout is Nothing New Traditional Coffee Shop. They heed the call of Paul Bougenaux who said, "People who think only of profit in the next twenty years won't make any profit." Look at how dilapidated and profit-oriented Baguio has become. They had artificial flowers and new-planted flowers in the last "Flower Festival" *kuno*. And prices went 300 percent in many places. Who wants to go back there?

See you in Marikina soon.

(Send feedback to Moje.Ramos@Aquino.ZZN.com*)*

e-mail: peopleatwork@inquirer.com.ph.

PEOPLE at WORK

Editor Raul O. Marcelo ◆ Subsection Editor Regina Galang Reyes

PHOTO BY MIKE ALQUINTO

PEOPLE AT WORK GOES ON AIR IN "BREAKFAST"

People at Work will go on air in a segment every Monday starting March 18 in Studio 23's "Breakfast" which airs from 6:30 to 8:30 a.m. on weekdays. To be co-hosted by PDI Corporate Relations manager Celine Madamba, the pilot telecast will feature PaW columnist Tita Datu Puangco who will discuss the future of graduates. The segment is being coordinated by Optimus Managers & Advisors, Inc. for Inquirer. In photo on the set are (seated from left) PAW editor Regina Galang Reyes , PDI Corporate Relations manager Celine Madamba, "Breakfast" host Ria Tanjuatco, Metro Working Mom editor-in-chief An Mercado-Alcantara, PDI Classifieds Head Donald Lim. Standing from left are "Breakfast" executive producer Noel Ferrer and hosts Wilma Doesnt, Gabe Mercado, Carmina Constantino and JC Gonzales.

How to transform work wars into company triumphs

ILLUSTRATION BY ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

By Josie O. Santamaria

AT ONE time or another, people have experienced conflict, observed others in conflict or read about conflicts that resulted in court cases, physical aggression, murders or even wars. At work, conflicts between members of an organization can lead to internal turf wars and even to closure of the organization. Conflict at work can happen on the shop floor, in offices and in the boardroom. The protagonists could be rank and file and executives, frontliners and customers, superiors and subordinates or stockholders and management.

Counterproductive behavior

When two or more persons come together, the stage is set for potential conflict because self-interests clash. Some conflicts are just mere disagreements that can be ignored. Others dissolve into organizational breakdown when the protagonists are so dead set on defeating the other that they would risk their relationships, reputation, work, careers and even their lives. Protagonists sometimes engage in shouting matches or icy silence, passivity or "snubbing" each other. They may lash out at each other at every opportunity.

These unproductive behaviors result in wasting the time, energy and resources of the protagonists and observers. A lot of energy is spent on fighting instead of getting tasks done. Other uninvolved employees or "bystanders" waste time talking about the protagonists.

Conflict is often seen as having negative consequences. Thus, some people try to avoid conflict by "sweeping it under the rug." Conflict, however, can be constructive and can lead to some good. In fact, some good leaders even stimulate conflict when they find that everyone agrees with each other or the leader. When agreement is reached so easily, this means that no one is thinking; everyone wants to be on the "safe side" by agreeing with the majority. So a good leader sometimes plays a "devil's advocate" role. If well managed, conflict can be the basis of synergy.

Nature of conflict

People disagree, fight or clash because they see situations differently. Differences in perception are due to differences in needs, values, personalities, preferences and interests, orientations, education and training, or background experiences of the protagonists. Conflicts occur between sales and marketing, marketing and finance, marketing and manufacturing, or production and quality control. Very often, these conflicts among heads of functional areas degenerate into a turf war.

People in conflict bring with them certain attitudes such as the "win-lose," "lose-lose or no win," "lose-win," "compromise" (a low form of win-win) and "win-win." These attitudes may lead to any of these reactions: fight or aggression, withdrawal of one party from another, or "approach" behaviors, such as in finding a solution that will satisfy both parties.

Attitudes on conflict

When a person has a win-lose mentality, he usually uses his position, or his access to resources, as a method of coercion to get his way. His attitude is "I'm the boss here and what I say goes!" or "Let's see if you can get my approval on this" The person pursues his own concerns without considering the concerns and needs of the other person. The result: there are winners and losers. The losers do not support the winners wholeheartedly. There may be conscious or unconscious renewal of the struggle previously settled by the use of power. "I'll get you for this" could be a vengeful attitude on the part of a loser.

When two persons who have a win-lose mentality clash, the result is a lose-lose situation. "If I can't have it, you won't have it either" is the mentality of a lose-lose person. In one company, two equally competent managers (group product manager and the national sales manager) were being considered for the newly created position of vice president for marketing. The president had a difficult time choosing between the two contenders because each one could fit the position as well as the other. However, the president knew that if he chose one, he would lose the other. So, he left the decision up to the two managers. Neither wanted to give in to the other. The president was forced to get an outsider to fill the position. Both managers preferred to have an outsider rather then to have the other get the post.

Loser mentality

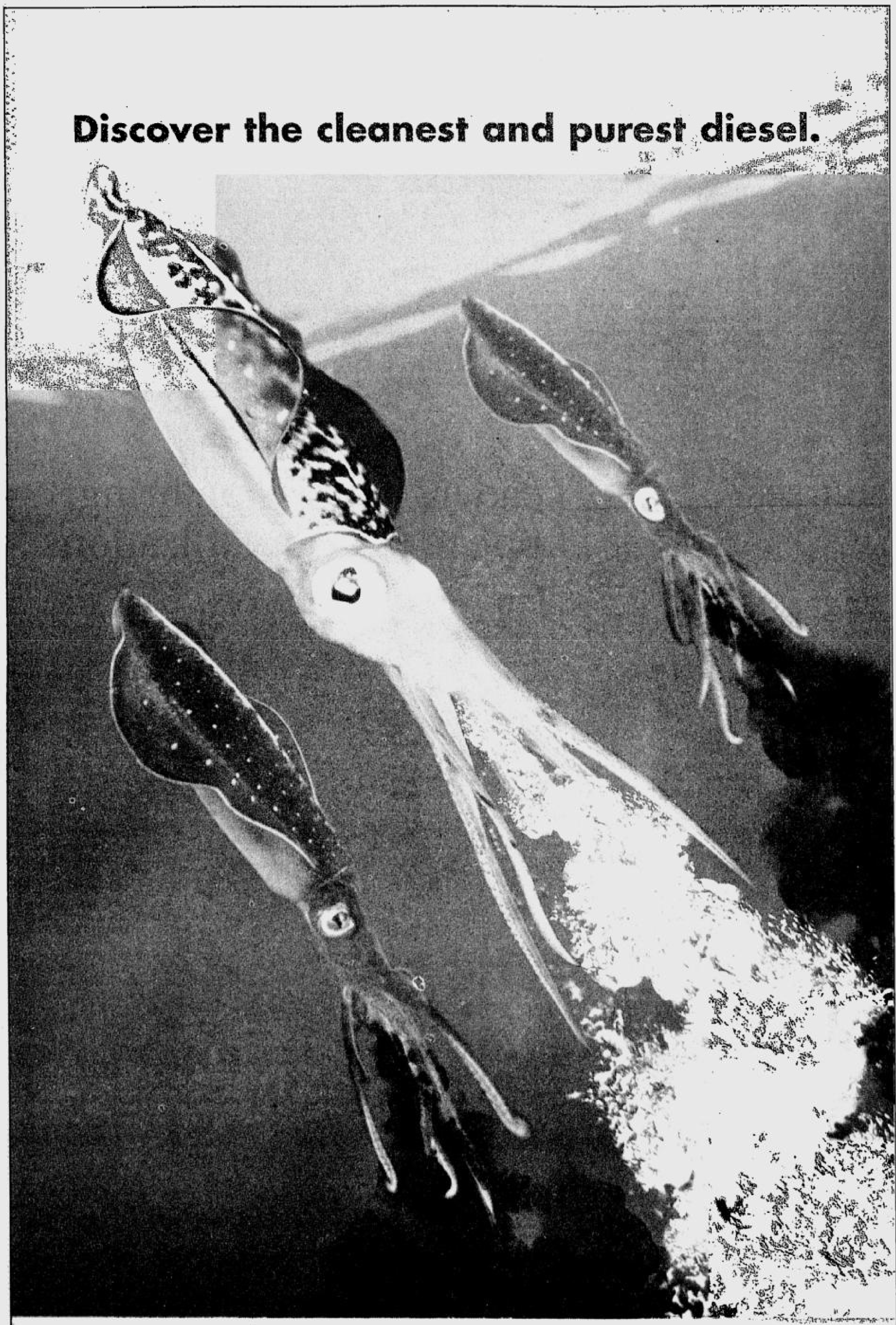
On the other hand, the lose-win attitude is the mentality of the "nice guy" who has a strong desire to please or to appease. He has little courage to express his opinions, feelings or conviction. He is easily intimidated by the forceful expression of another person's win-lose stance. Usually suffering from a low self-image, this person is overwhelmed by feelings of helplessness or hopelessness so he gives in, gives up or capitulates to the other person.

An example is a manager who asked one supervisor to finish a task which had long been assigned to the latter, before going home that afternoon because he needed the data for a meeting in the morning of the following day. The supervisor refused to work overtime because she said she had urgent personal matters to attend to. The manager ended up doing overtime himself. But deep within, he was resentful of the supervisor.

This is in contrast to a lose-lose relationship which can result in a compromise deal which is very common in management-union negotiations. Union demands an across the board increase of, say, 30 percent of the salary. Management vigorously says "no" and a deadlock ensures. When a threat of strike and/or plant closure looms, both panels compromise on a 10 percent increase.

(Next week, conflict resolution styles will be tackled).

(Ms Santamaria is a consultant specializing in career development, organization development, HRD and conflict resolution skills. She and her husband Jorge manage Career Systems, Inc. For questions and comments, she can be contacted thru e-mail carsys@qinet.net.*)*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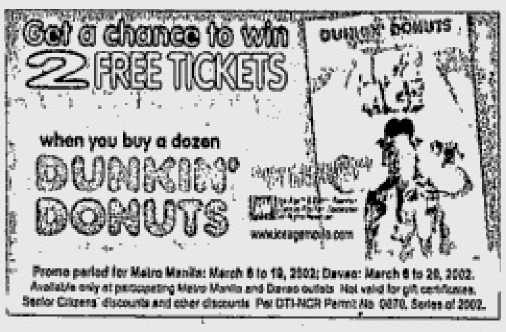
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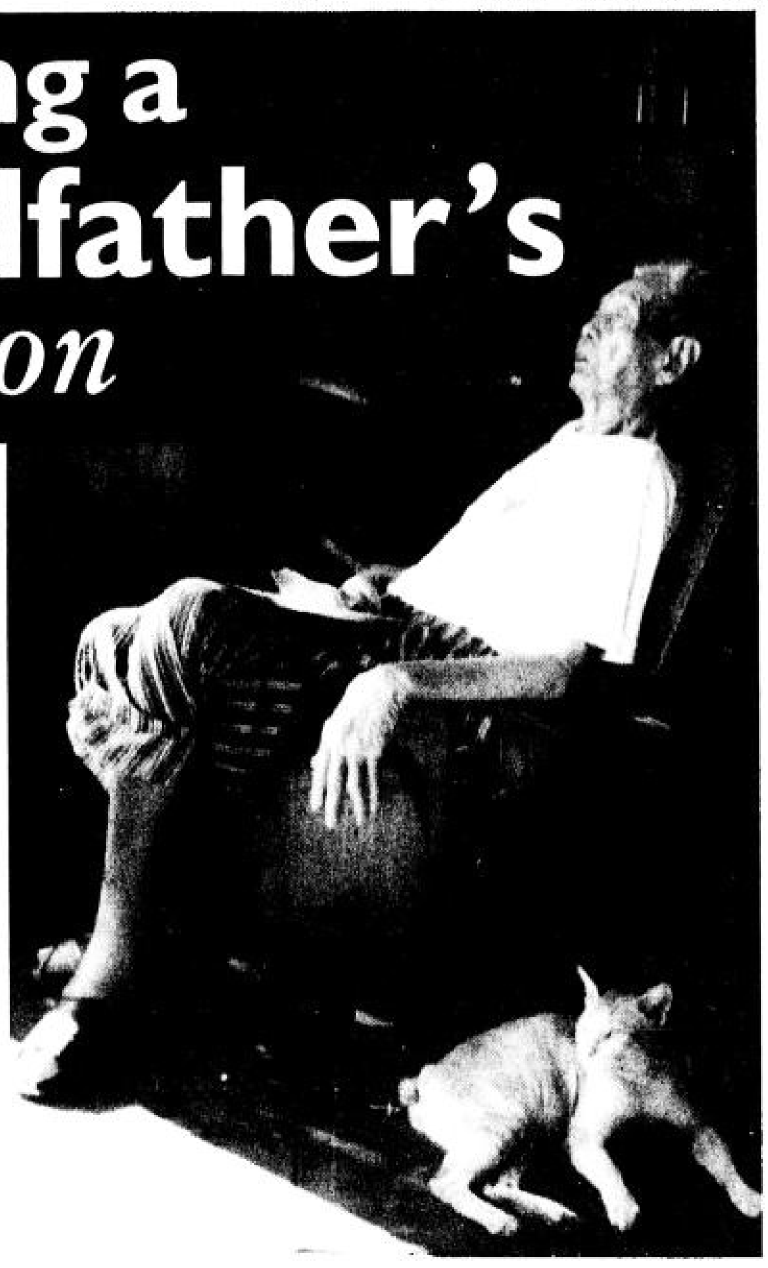
Inheriting a grandfather's *passion*



Text and photo by Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

AS closely knit as Filipino families are, relationships with grandparents come close to being unconditional. Grandparents don't overwhelm you with atrociously high expectations; they always hold you in high esteem, and are happy with almost anything you do. They give much while expecting nothing in return.

I did not get to meet my grandmothers, so I did not have someone to teach me how to crochet, how to cook and all the things grandmothers typically teach the young. A grandfather was all I got. He used to baby-sit my brother and me when we were little kids, telling us stories of his experiences in "the old days." He was energetic for his age and would climb trees just for kicks. We had a nice grandfather-granddaughter relationship.

Photographer days

When I was growing up, my mom would tell me stories of my grandfather as a photographer specializing in portraits. They had a studio in their garage. During family reunions, weddings and such he would always be behind the lens. I had some interest in photography but I did not have the time to actually learn. In grade school, I my experience with photography was not particularly happy: overexposed shots, badly focused pictures, films that never loaded—well, you get the picture.

Last summer, I resurrected my grandfather's old 35-millimeter manual Pentax camera. I found out that the University of the Philippines Film Center held photography workshops every summer, and gave discounts to students. So I spent the break between finishing high school and starting college to learn something I've always wanted to get into.

Although I was really excited about it, I initially feared that photography would be more of a chore—strange, unwieldy equipment, chemicals that stank to high heavens, a very creepy darkroom and the constant fear of having my camera snatched. I visualized a cartoon version of myself choking as some guy tried to yank the camera strap from my neck.

Loving the lens

Strangely enough, I fell in love with photography, stinky chemicals and all, thanks in part to my professor who patiently dealt with my neurotic outbursts and my initial fear of being alone in the darkroom (no thanks to all those UP urban legends). I could imagine how my *lolo* felt with every satisfying snap of the camera, the therapy he received as he went through the rhythmic process of developing the film, and the joy of seeing all those faces and events immortalized in his photographs.

Sadly, my grandfather was not immortal. It was a shock to learn that he had pancreatic cancer. I didn't know how to handle this development. For the first time someone close to me was about to die. I guess no one really knows how to adequately deal with death.

I still remember going to class the first semester of my senior year and not being able to give the same focus to my studies as I did before; one of my teachers wrote a glaring scarlet message on my paper and asked why I didn't follow instructions to her quiz. It was awkward, not to mention embarrassing, to just spill your life story to a teacher so I blurted out some excuse, which fortunately got me off the hook.

After learning that my grandfather only had a few months to live, my family tried to make sure that he was happy and comfortable for the remainder of his days. My uncles, aunts and cousins from Japan and the United States all came home, giving different reasons for their visit. I think my grandfather was suspicious that everyone just "happened" to drop by all at once. We never told him he had cancer, so as not to dampen his enthusiasm for life.

He survived for about 15 months, after his diagnosis, a lot longer than the period the doctor had set. But he was no longer the tree-climbing *lolo*. He had to stay in bed most of the time, and he didn't even have the strength to attend my high school graduation.

I still did not know how to deal with the inevitable. Not being the weepy type, it was a bit difficult for me to tell people about what I was going through. But not wanting to turn the situation into a soap-opera tragedy, I resolved to make the most of my grandfather's remaining time. He succumbed to the disease last September, passing away peacefully and, hopefully, without any unfinished business.

Priceless

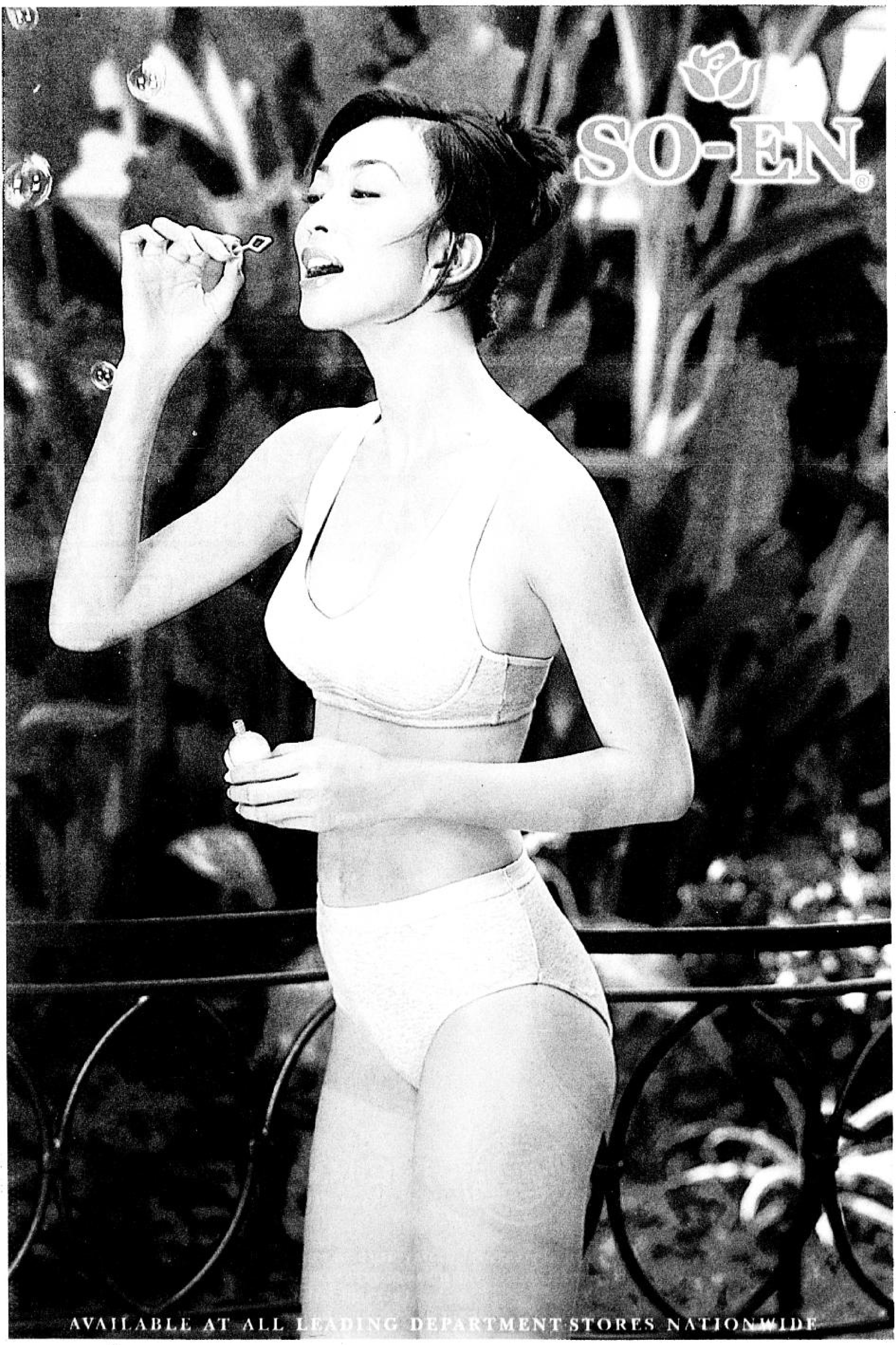
The picture with this story was taken during my grandfather's last few weeks. I never thought I'd hold on to this one photo, but I guess photography is like that—you sometimes never know how valuable your shots are. I've never used another camera since then and I doubt I'll buy another one anytime soon.

I guess this is what my grandfather left me—a love for photography. I wish we got to spend more time together, but I can keep the memories and remember him through one of the things he loved most.

Grandparents, as well as other loved ones, are priceless. Unfortunately, you don't have a lifetime to spend with them. But when they do leave, you can remember them by what they left behind.

The author graduated Valedictorian from ICA Greenhills and is now a freshman at UP Diliman. When she's not drowning herself in coffee, she devours books and bangs on the piano.

E-mail the author at unicorn@csi.com.ph or cathy_young1@yahoo.com



My God-sent godson

By Niño Mark M. Sablan
2bU! Correspondent

ONE sweaty summer afternoon at a friend's house, the front door suddenly opened with a loud bang and intro duced a pair of bare babies, wonder twins no more than a year old, prancing around like wind-up elves. When I asked my friend who they were, she crumpled her face and shrugged her shoulders. Before long, an apologetic teener entered the house, was relieved upon seeing the twins, and explained that Katsan and Matsan had a knack for gatecrashing. When it was time to go, however, Katsan and I were all over each other, inseparable like soulmates. After a lengthy time though, Katsan finally loosened his grip and bade goodbye.

Months have passed since Katsan made a grand entrance into my life and we have grown even closer. We've been fixtures over at each other's house and no day is complete without us getting to spend even a short time together, preferably accompanied by a *litro* of Pop Cola and a "*piso* pack" of sweet corn-flavored Tomi. We're so close that I know every single member of his clan and it's never a problem with them whenever I take Katsan for a trip to the *sari-sari* store or a stroll in the mall.

What tickles me the most is how acquaintances, sales ladies and strangers ask if we're father and son, to which I excitedly say yes every time. More than the supposed physical resemblance, I think it's the rapport or invisible bond that people sense in us, making them assume we're related.

My little godson is one of the most important persons who truly make my life worth living. He provides me so much happiness just by existing, just by being himself. All the big and little things he does for me are truly priceless. Like all the wet kisses he plants on my face, or how he gets jealous whenever I kiss someone else. Or how he brings my slippers whenever he sees me removing my shoes. Or how he runs toward me whenever we see each other, and turns silent when he senses it's time to leave. What grips my heart the most is how he calls me Papa when he can't even utter anything understandable or more than one syllable.

He's going to Japan this July and my heart seems to collapse every day. I know that something priceless is something non-quantifiable, but every day that passes just makes him more and more priceless to me. And so I spend more quality time with him every day, knowing that we have limited time. Hopefully, we will both Swedish or Cubans in the next life.

The author's greatest fear is to become impotent so he's staying away from tight-fit pants. Then again, he can always adopt kids or bunny rabbits.

E-mail the author at katotino@yahoo.com.

How I survived college

By Sheryll Lopez
2bUI Correspondent

> I owe my diploma to my nine friends who made university life bearable for me

IT seemed not so long ago when I first set foot on campus. The environment was different from high school and anything that made me uncomfortable was bad. I didn't cry.

At the university, people seemed to be looking down on you for sounding different. Or they thought highly of themselves because they graduated at the top of their high school class. Others would take advantage of you because you were nice, or talk behind your back because you believed differently.

Nine reasons

That's what I really had to deal with in college, not the exams or the subjects I hated but had to take—the people I met but wished I hadn't. But I had one reason—actually nine—to make it all worthwhile so that college became not something I had to deal with but something I thoroughly enjoyed, giving me memories that are beyond price.

The nine reasons were my friends. A cliché, but the truth nonetheless. I couldn't imagine how it would be like after graduation day without them. I mean, we'd still be friends but we'd all go our separate ways. And I'm afraid that if we lose touch, we'll forget about each other. That's the worst thing that could happen.

I couldn't possibly describe them thoroughly, one by one. I'd just try to recall my best moments with them.

The first thing I did during the first day in school with the first person I met, who ended up being my friend, was to look for a TV so we could watch Game 6 of the 1998 NBA Finals. A good start, because after that, I felt that everything was going to be okay. She consumes a lot of food but manages to remain very thin (an ability I wished I had).

With another friend I learned to cross streets. We spent "Beavis and Butthead" afternoons—observing people not watching TV. Probably the most serious and most emotional of all, I served as her phone-in psychiatrist, answering hypothetical questions that were sometimes weird but she loved to dwell on.

Most popular

Then there's the one who never ran out of admirers. She accompanied me every afternoon as I waited for my dad to pick me up before she went home. In my opinion, she owned the coolest shirts in school and could wear only shorts and slippers and still look beautiful. No wonder one of the guys in our group fell in love with her.

This guy was probably the busiest among us. Juggling three organizations at the same time, I wondered how he managed to be active in all three with other school stuff to worry about. His mom made the best baked *tahong* and he never ran out of Pop Tarts.

Another one taught me to look beyond Rustan's for things I wanted. She never bought expensive clothes and spent most of her time shopping in *tiangges*. She carried her clothes well and never ran out of chocolates and chips to share with us. I think she'd rather play billiards than go to school.

You could always count on another friend to have the "inside information."

We would like to believe though that his life changed after he saved another person's life. Though *kuripot*, he always brought back Chocoflakes whenever he visited Baguio.

Best present

This other friend enjoys music as much as I do. I think he's cool because he liked Incubus even before they became famous. He, along with another friend, sang to me a Boyz II Men song through a two-way radio on my birthday, while I was in Vigan for an anthropology class. It was one of my best birthday presents.

The last two would be a couple, but very different from each other. The guy is probably one of the most eccentric personalities I've ever encountered. He never got embarrassed when he did something outrageous.

The girl probably does not realize what a really beautiful person she is, both inside and out. Her intelligence could not be measured by the ratings in the class cards. Like most of my friends, she had been reading Tolkien even before anyone ever thought of making his books into movies. She made me read books, something I actually hated doing, and shared my love of films.

These nine people changed college... and my life, and I hope that, somehow, our friendship would endure even when we finally go our separate ways.

Sheryll is a 20-year-old from UP Manila who prefers druggies over pretty boys.

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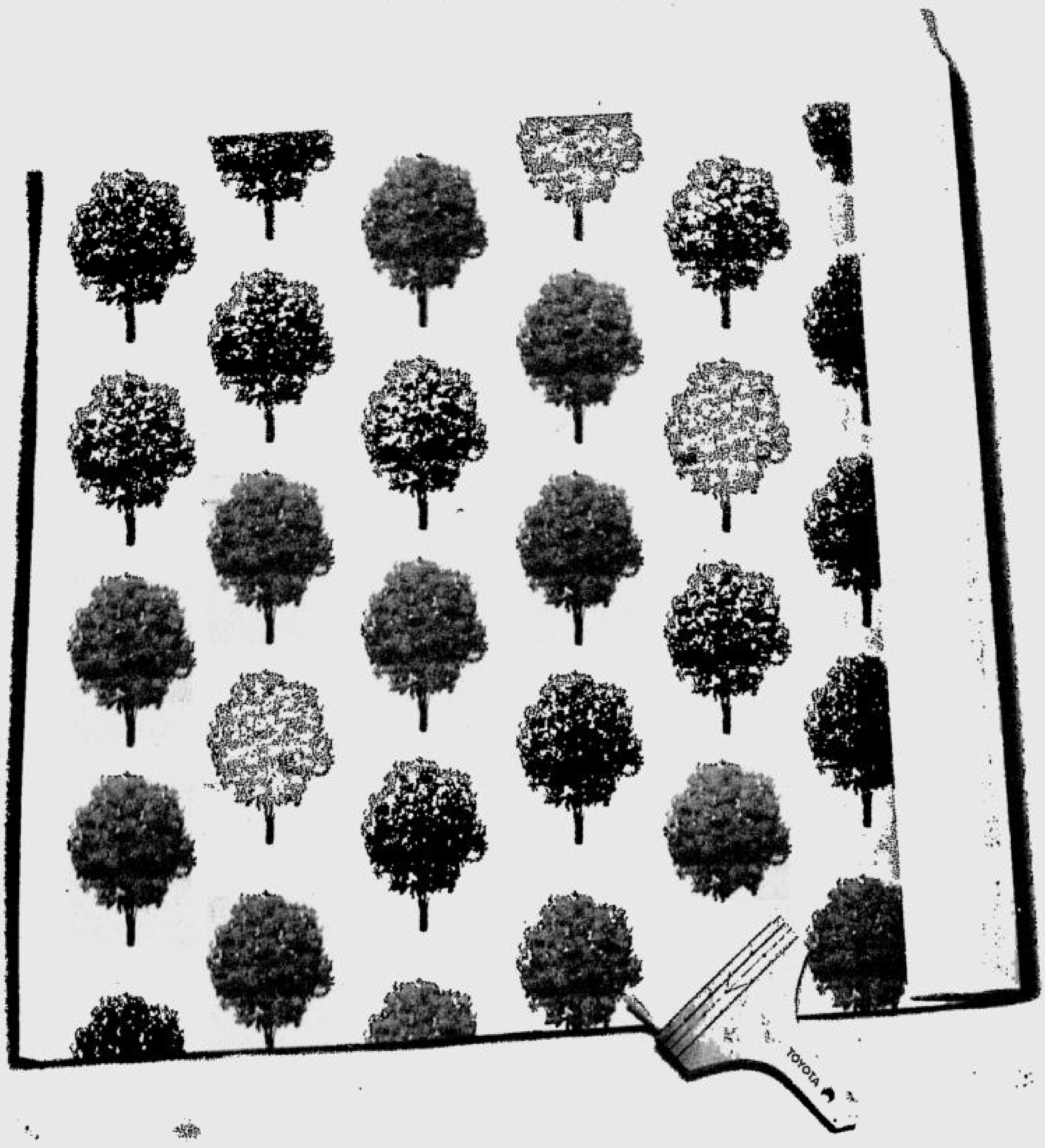


A fresh new start

My 'barkada' is a priceless treasure

By Leslie Ann Tan
2bU! Correspondent

AS graduation draws near for college seniors, I look back on the 17 years I spent in school and wonder what helped me survive. My *barkada* immediately comes to mind.

Yup, the insanely foolish, incredibly wonderful bunch of people that make up my *barkada* is priceless. They were my constants when everything in my life was changing.

On weekdays, I would find myself in the company of my *barkada* at the University of the Philippines whether cramming for yet another economics exam, sitting through a lecture on international monetary regimes or simply walking around the Acad Oval.

How many hours did I spend chatting in the library, eating cheese sticks and *kwek-kwek* by the fishball stand, exploring the nooks and cranny of the vast university, and simply having a good time? A hell lot. My friends taught me to believe in myself, to work hard and play hard. One even brought me closer to God through our constant visits to the chapel. I made some of the most important decisions in my life before the crucifix.

MY UP *barkada*

Weekends were reserved for another set of *barkada*—my high school buddies. We would "invade" restaurants and fill them with our laughter and antics. Although dinners usually lasted for three hours, still there was not enough time to catch up on each other's lives. So we ended up sleeping over in someone's home to talk about anything and everything.

Of course, those nights were hardly spent sleeping (though I have to admit to being the first to doze off every time). They ended up as talkathons lasting till the wee hours of the morning.

When we were younger, our conversations centered on schoolwork and nasty teachers. As we grew older, boys, work and plans for the future became the recurring themes. Most of my high school friends had started to wear a little makeup, but inside they were the same people I spent my childhood with. Many things have indeed changed, but the most important ones remain the same.

I will meet a great many people, but perhaps none could compare to my friends

I always thought of ourselves as characters in a theater play or circus because we were all so different and unique and crazy. But together, we created this one perfect show. That's the real beauty of friendship. And its true worth? Well, as much as I pride myself in my skill in mathematics, I can never quantify what my friends are worth.

Life will take me to a great many places, and I will meet a great many people, but perhaps none could compare to my *barkadas*.

Leslie is a summa cum laude candidate at the School of Economics, University of the Philippines. She believes her fondest memories of college will be of her 'barkada'

The meaning of 'beyond price'

By Brandie Tan

IT only took a split second for a big idea to hit me on the head.

It's this great big light bulb that would flash right over me. If you were right in front of me where my partner would usually be, you'd see me smile for a second. I'd tell him my idea and sometimes he'd like it.

Some had been transformed into ads while some were crushed in the hands of our creative director. That's why it's always that split second that's most special.

Brandie Tan is the 24-year-old art director of the award-winning agency BBDO. He was part of the team who created the Zhang Ziyi commercial for Visa Mastercard

Beyond price moments

By Jules Alcantara
2bU! Correspondent

BLUE line. The moment I saw the second blue line in my pregnancy test. It's not an exaggeration to say that my life began that moment. There really was no turning back—I was going to be a single parent. I remember sitting on the floor of my bathroom and crying tears of joy. He may have been unplanned, but knowing he was growing inside of me erased all fears and hesitations. In fact, I don't even remember being scared or having ambivalent feelings at all.

3 a.m. at the park. One night, when I was 7 months pregnant, I decided to take a walk at a nearby park at 2 a.m. I could not sleep and my back was killing me. I sat on the bench and listened to the stillness of the surrounding. It was so quiet and peaceful I could actually hear—not just see—my tummy moving. My son kept on making kick-like movements and I could hear my tummy making wooshy sounds. I was imagining him swimming inside of me. For a long moment, I felt so detached from my surrounding. At that moment, I felt real connection with my yet-to-be born son.

First embrace. When they first brought him to my room after I gave birth, I was quite irritated since everyone was there watching me. After some time, they understood the cause of my crankiness and, finally, I had my first solo moment with Tiger. It was so memorable that words can only serve to give a glimpse of how I truly felt at that moment.

Having him in my arms has been my happiest moment. Every time I think of a happy thought, I go back to that moment when I first kissed him. I remember being worried about literally smothering him since I wanted to hug him so tight. I was so overwhelmed—I had in my arms the be-all and end-all of whom I am and what I will be from that moment onward. At the risk of sounding even more dramatic, it was this moment when I realized there's a God. Who else would be as generous as Him that He has given me the best gift of all?

It was also at this moment when I completely grasped the meaning of unconditional love. I remember one of my cousins saying he looked like a *negrong* lizard since they saw a glimpse of him immediately after the doctor cut the umbilical cord. But all I could think of as I held him (and not to mention, check every part of him to see if "anything is missing") was how beautiful my son was and no one could be as perfect. Even now that he's older and more *makulit* than ever, I still think he is the most beautiful and perfect being on this planet.

Daily ration of peace and quiet. It is pure bliss watching my son beside me, and all I can hear is the quiet hum of the AC. This is the moment I look forward to every day. No amount of money, gifts or achievement can match the feelings of happiness and peace I feel at this moment.

The first time I met my boyfriend, Erwin. He and I were destined to meet. We were going to meet for the first time outside the full-packed Fat Willy's. Since we could not hear each other clearly as we spoke on the cell phone, I decided to walk to a quiet spot beside Fat Willy's. All of a sudden, I could hear myself as we spoke on the phone. It turned out he was standing a few feet away from me.

We hugged each other and said hello. Weird as it may sound, I felt like I was home.

Moment at the stairwell with my gay friend. Mark came out of the closet, so to speak, while we were bonding in one of the stairwells of a condominium near school. I remember seeing fear written all over his face. All I could think of was how much I wanted to comfort him and tell him I love him no less, perhaps even more, when he told me about himself.

Every time I talk to my mom and brother on the phone. My mom and my brother are thousands of miles away from me. Every time we talk these days is a precious moment for me.

Receiving notice that my parents' annulment has been approved. Finally, freedom for my siblings and I—most especially for my mother.

Late Monday night planning with Pam, Jason and Tim (and sometimes, Maui). Mondays are usually stressful for me, but being with these people every Monday keeps me sane. Trite as this may sound, these guys have found a permanent spot in my heart. No amount of intrigues (creative or otherwise) or conflict can ever displace these people in my list of life-long friends.

Jules is very shy, demure, bashful, timid, reserved and quiet—not

My 15 minutes *of fame*

By Maui Reyes
2bU! Correspondent

"LOTS of sleep and Vitamin C," my friend Ricci said on the phone. Those words are now the best advice anyone has given me. Who would have known that 1,000 mg of ascorbic acid, an extra four hours of sleep and about a gallon of ginger tea would help me get through what I would consider my own priceless memory?

Hold your laughter when I say this: One of my ultimate dreams is to be a performer.

I'll come clean. As a child growing up with hardly any siblings around to play with, I'd pass on my boredom by putting on little "shows" with my brother's Voltes V and He-man figurines (when I discovered Barbie dolls, all the better). My high-school classmates would probably say not much has changed.

I made up for my being different by performing in front of the class. I was constantly singing and dancing in the halls. Not that I was a good dancer... I was turned down by the cheerleading squad when I tried out. And the singing part? Let's just say if the world were to explode and it relied on my singing to save it, well, say your prayers so we could see each other in the next life.

Not that I didn't try. My mother, during her "Maui, do something productive" stage, made me take up voice lessons (aside from piano, ballet and tae kwon do). I have asthma, and it always seems to hit whenever I get stressed, anxious or when my allergies act up. So the voice lessons were scrapped after around the fifth session (my teacher said she'd come back when I recover, but she never did).

In love

Needless to say, I was—and am—in love with music. It's something I breathe, sleep and *live for*. It's something I escape to. When a song can't capture what I'm feeling, I'd go and write my own. It's something I kept to myself, something no one else understood but me. In my senior year, however, the entire high school department got a glimpse of my dream.

The minute the spotlight shone on me, I was having the most incredible feeling in the world

My school's glee club put up a "Battle of the Bands" competition, and my friend's band needed a vocalist. How did it happen? I don't recall. But I later found myself a week before the actual event singing my heart out during band rehearsals amid my laryngitis/bronchitis/pharyngitis stage (my doctor strongly forbade me to do any strenuous activity for a week. Yeah, sure). My nights consisted of sore throats, coughing, stress and anxiety—until Feb. 4, 2000 came. I swear I had never been so giddy my whole life.

You know that feeling when you're about to go for the high diving board during swimming lessons? Sound check killed me. The huge speakers scared the living daylights out of me, and people were rushing back and forth backstage. I was losing my voice, and a last-minute band practice had me hitting my head against the wall.

Incredible feeling

But the minute I stepped on that stage, the minute the spotlight shone on me, let me tell you this: It was the most incredible feeling in the world. By the bridge of the first song, I had the microphone off the stand and just belting my soul out. And okay, maybe my band was stuck in an Eraserheads-zone that they had to pick a <s>andwich tune to play, but I didn't care. Play one of my songs, play someone else's song, it didn't matter.

The microphone was screwed up you could barely hear what I was singing. I slipped on a few notes. So what? I could see some of my friends on the bleachers screaming and jumping up and down with me. I spotted my mom beaming with pride. I made out my teacher's baffled looks in a dark corner of the gym. But most of all, I could hear my voice blasting from the speakers. I was living my dream. Living my 15 minutes of fame.

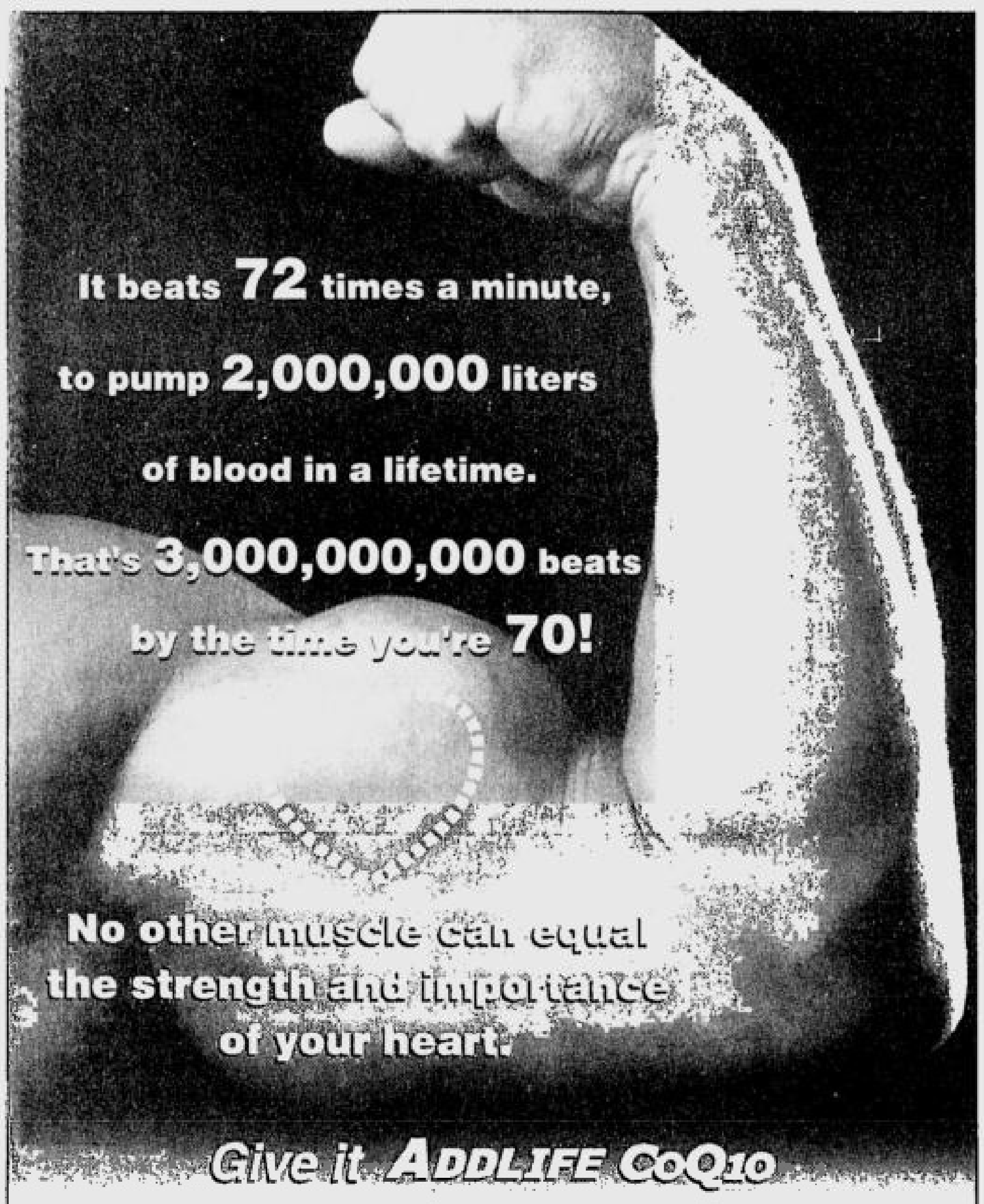
Our band didn't win. We bagged Best Guitarist and Best Drummer, and the big prizes went to some sophomore band. I now keep thinking, "What if we picked better songs? What if I went all around the stage even if I trip over cables?" It doesn't matter anymore. What matters was that in the span of 13 minutes and a few seconds, I had that *feeling*... the feeling that I *could do this*.

Of course, today, I don't feel as hot as then. I'd rather sit and scream through an Imago set than be the one sitting on the stage of 70's Bistro. But I still rewind to that brief period in my life. I lie in bed and think about how bizarre it was to live the life of people you admire. Because while the chances of me being in a band in the future are slim to none, I know I hacked it.

Oh, hey, Frances Ramos, if you're reading this, give me a call, okay? Let's do that jamming session you were talking about.

Maui is currently looking for money-making opportunities to support her summer fund

Any violent reactions can be sent to volcanogirl28@hotmail.com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RMHS Manila holds grand alumni reunion

RAMON Magsaysay High School (RMHS) Manila is celebrating its 43rd founding anniversary with a grand alumni reunion March 16, 6 p.m., at the Maharlika Lounge, Casino Filipino, Parañaque.

Aptly called "A Blue and White Party," the affair promises to be a casual, fun and yet nostalgic reunion where the alumni can rekindle friendship and ties among their batchmates, teachers and school friends. The dinner and dance affair will also pay tribute to the teachers of RMHS Batch '77.

Hosting the affair is Batch '77, which is also celebrating its 25th graduation anniversary. The silver jubilarians are also organizing a fund-raising activity to benefit the school.

RMHS Manila alumni and Batch '77 teachers are enjoined to attend this affair. Tickets to the reunion are inclusive of dinner, raffle and all-night dancing and partying. Tickets are available from any of the Batch '77 alumni officers. Call Rachel Reyes-Sescon at 928-8671 local 15; Lynn Chavarria Hernandez at 781-4887 or (0917) 795-1088; or Grace Sanchez at 631-7807 or (0917) 610-6599.

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TOYOTA

The dog that broke my heart

By Pam Pastor

HOW DO you choose a priceless moment? Do you just raid your memory cells and pluck a priceless moment out? No. It comes and finds you. And last week, one found me.

A neighborhood dog broke my heart twice.

First, when I initially laid eyes on him—a couple of weeks ago. He looked as if someone had scraped all his fur off, leaving behind crusty skin. He was very thin and looked very weak and forlorn. My heart just went out to him. I was on my way to school then. I wanted to bring him home and give him a bath. But two things stopped me. One, my grandma would go ballistic if she saw the dog. And two, he was not mine. I didn't know which of my cruel neighbors owned him, but whoever owned him deserved to burn in hell. That poor little guy should not be treated like that. I continued on my way to school, the image of that forsaken creature searing my heart and mind. I had a lump in my throat that refused to go away.

His fur seemed to have been scraped off and he was weak and thin, but he was a beautiful dog

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The next few days, I tried looking for him. But he was gone. I thought he had died.

But the following week, on my way home from the bank, I saw him again. I told the maid that we should give him food. She just shrugged at me, like nothing could be done to help the little creature. She peered out the window while I rummaged through the fridge. She kept saying that he had already left. I ignored her. A dog as weak as that wouldn't have gotten very far. I just felt that I had to do something. I might not be able to restore his health, I might not be able to make his fur grow back, but I had to do something. Feeding him was the least I could do.

The only thing I found in my ref was a slice of cold pizza and I grabbed that. I went out again. I couldn't find him. I kept walking, ignoring the trucks that bumped along the road. I saw him in the next block, sitting by someone's rusty gate. I approached him slowly, not wanting to scare him off. I slowly put the pizza by his side.

He got up and started eating it. He wolfed the pizza down in just a few seconds. At that moment, he was the most beautiful creature I'd ever seen.

Watching that hungry dog eat was beyond any price for me.

I went home and cried.

The author is 21 but feels ancient. She spends most of her waking hours fulfilling her soul's passion—writing.

E-mail the author at ppastor@inquirer. com.ph

The year of living away

Text and photo
by Walter Ang
2bU! Correspondent

AFTER MY high school graduation, I spent a few agonizing weeks deciding if I should take a year off as an exchange student in the United States.

I was excited, scared and occasionally nauseous at the thought of spending a year alone abroad living with a host family.

Go west

We finally decided I should go and a few months later I was in Clinton City in Iowa state. Not quite a farming town but not a bustling metropolis either, Clinton was an interesting change of environment for someone who grew up inhaling the noxious fumes of downtown Manila. The big, blue sky was unobstructed by tall buildings. And all those cornfields!

The first few months were a whirlwind of activities. Getting used to living with another family, meeting the seven other European exchange students who were in the same exchange program, adjusting to the school system and so on.

I hung out a lot with the other exchange students. We relied on each other for support and constantly compared notes on our experiences.

The nearest mall was 45 minutes away (and that's going the maximum speed on the highway).

And even though we had been told the "real" America was nothing like "Melrose Place" or all those other chi-chi shows on TV, deep inside we kind of compared. I did have moments when I had to stop and pinch myself because living with a family of tall, blonde-haired, English-speaking Caucasians did feel like I was in a TV show occasionally. It was very surreal at times!

Another life

I got to know my very amiable host-family, the Wheelers. We'd do a lot of things like go on trips or spend Thursday nights watching "E.R." together. My host dad, Jerry, liked to listen to classical music in his basement office. My host sister Sarah and I would have fun conversations while she drove me to school. Host brother Noah and I loved to make fun of everything we saw on TV. My host mom, Cheryl, made me a wonderful blue quilt for Christmas that year that I still use as a blanket until now.

I got to rake leaves in the fall and, in winter, we'd sometimes wake up at the ungodly hour of 4 a.m. to shovel snow off the driveway so we could leave at 6 a.m. It was a little tough for me in winter because I experienced seasonal depression.

That same winter, the exchange students took a limousine to Chicago. The limo was cheaper when we split the bill compared to buying individual bus tickets. On New Year's Eve, we ate in a fancy restaurant complete with paper hats and forgot to tip the waiters. They ran after us to get their gratuity!

Travel was part of the perks of the program. We were "ambassadors of goodwill," forging ties and friendship on behalf of our respective countries. We were invited to speak at Ladies' Clubs, churches, and even to the local boyscout troop. "Do you have a moon in Europe?" someone asked Anne from Belgium. "We have two! One of them is purple," she deadpanned, tired of being asked such silly questions.

I once got asked if Filipinos really ate dogs. I gave the prepared answer, "It's not good, it's not bad. It's just different." Sometimes I would add, "After all, cows are sacred in India and you guys love hamburgers."

Away from home

Being away from everything that you're familiar with gives you a chance to find out who you are without your old friends, your family, your comfort zones.

in the end, it dawns on you that no matter where you are and where you're from, you're more likely to find similarities with other people rather than differences. My host dad Jerry once asked me what kids in Manila liked to do in their spare time. I shrugged my shoulder and said, "Hang out at the mall." He laughed, "I guess teenagers around the world are all the same!"

I can't believe how many years have actually passed since. I always remember it like it was just yesterday and I still keep in touch with my family in Clinton.

The author would like to go to Barcelona, Spain one day, for free if possible.

E-mail the author at waltzang@mail.com

'Those who care, teach'

By Chiquit Torrente
2bU! Correspondent

IT'S hard to put into words something precious, like the rapt attention you see on a child's face when you're telling a story. Children are very transparent, and you can tell by their faces that they can feel the action or the danger and excitement as your story reaches its climax. It's hard to explain the pride you feel when you see an old student exceed you in terms of accomplishment and you know you had something to do with his training. So I asked some of my friends to help me explain why teaching is priceless.

KC started volunteer-teaching in her early teens. After she finishes her master's degree, she's putting up a preschool. For her, teaching is priceless "in all aspects you can possibly think of."

Working with kids

I stumbled upon teaching when, as a high school student, I'd hang out all day at Trumpets' Playshop (the stage company's summer workshop) instead of just being there for my two-hour class. *Tita* Luna Inocian saw me wasting my time and made me assist the children's theater class. That was in 1996. I've been working with kids ever since: in summer acting workshop, children's choir, even art tutorials.

I never took a course on teaching, except those two-day seminars prior to the start of a workshop. I would never claim to be a real teacher, in the sense that a real teacher is educated and trained to teach. But my nametag says "Teacher Chiquit," so that's what my kids call me. It's an indescribable pleasure when you're walking in the mall and you hear a small voice calling "Teacher Chiquit!" in greeting. It's good ego-food!

Despite the low pay and the hard work, teaching is very rewarding

Teachers, even those who don't teach as a profession, are almost always overworked and underpaid. And I say that with the deepest respect and admiration for all my past teachers. Anna Liese considers teaching priceless because "it's a service I know I can do well, and enjoy at the same time. It's also my way of honoring the good teachers I've had, and continue to have."

Vicky is a playschool teacher by profession, and she says, "I believe that teaching isn't priceless—I have a very definite belief about how much teachers should be paid. Teachers should be among the best-paid professionals in the country. They should earn as much as doctors or lawyers in private practice, or as much as middle-level managers in corporations. Theirs is the most valuable work anyone can aspire to."

Rewarding

Handling a summer musical theater workshop for toddlers and primary school-aged children is one of the most rewarding things I've ever done, because I see results after two months. When a painfully shy student shines in a showcase, that's rewarding. When an exceptionally gifted student goes on to star in real, professional plays, that's rewarding. In 2000 I had the joy of teaching with Lito Villareal, who came up with an original musical for our kids. And later in the year, a group of those kids starred in a Christmas TV special for GMA 7.

I love teaching kids, but after last summer I swore to myself I would never teach kids again. Not that I was giving up on kids. I just felt I wasn't being paid enough to be put down by some of my students' parents, who seemed to know my job better than I. I had great kids, but I knew I couldn't handle the kind of stress and pressure stage parents could create. There was a mother who'd call me outside working hours to remind me that I was doing a lousy job teaching because her 6-year old, whom she had enroled in a class of 7 to 9-year-olds, couldn't catch up. And there was another mother who harassed me because she found my number in her husband's cellular phone. Well, I was their kid's teacher, for crying out loud! If not for the eagerness and excitement of my students, and my wonderful co-teacher Hannah Bernardino, I don't know how I could have endured that summer.

But guess what? I have signed up to volunteer-teach in a weeknight school program. I have two students: 6-year old Andy, a very sociable kid, who wants to be a ballet teacher when she grows up, and 7-year-old Crissean, who wants to be a doctor. Last Christmas I received a gift from Andy. She gave me a gold bookmark engraved with the phrase, "Those who care, teach."

I once attended a lecture given by a former pastor of my church, where he said each person has a job, a career and a vocation. A job, he said, is what a person is doing to support himself. A career is what a person is trained to do, and he works on that for a period in his life. A person may have an average of seven career changes in his lifetime. A vocation is what a person is gifted to do and loves doing, and by doing that can contribute to improving the world. I used to look at my summer teaching stints as "just a job." Presently, the career path I am following is in architecture. I always considered writing as my vocation. But when I look at the definition of "vocation," then maybe teaching is also my vocation.

The author graduated from the UP College of Architecture and is working in a design firm. She will be teaching at Trumpets Playshop this summer.

Places of the heart

By Anne Rose A. Elicano
2bU! Correspondent

> *There are places I remember all my life, though some have changed, some forever, not for better some have gone and some remain, all these places have their moments...*—
> **Beatles, "In My Life"**

WHENEVER I take stock of what I consider priceless, a mental image of a photo gallery comes to mind. In that gallery would be photographs of various places. Pretty strange? Its just that I've always connected memories with places where they happened. A friend calls it the Dawson's Creek or Roswell Syndrome. People attach the drama of their lives to certain locations. My memories lack that cinematic, soap-opera feel to them and they aren't accumulated in just one place, but I guess the theory does hold water. All my memories are bound to certain places that have become landmarks in my heart. Allow me to write about two places that will always remain priceless to me.

Mindanao

The Mindanao I know and love is a beautiful place. When I tell people (here in Manila) that I grew up in Mindanao, most of them look back at me with strange expressions on their faces. I guess the pictures forming in their heads are Abu Sayyaf-infested jungles or scenes reminiscent of those in the film "Bagong Buwan." Don't get me wrong—what is presented by the media are, indeed, realities, but it's unfair for people to typecast Mindanao.

For all its worth, I've taken to deriving amusement from debunking misconceptions about the place. The Mindanao I know is one where I had the best childhood anyone could ever wish for. I grew up in an urban problem-free environment where there were fresh air, trees, beaches and a lot of space to romp in. Our multi-cultural community was one where the neighbors were friendly and open to learning from each other. During that time, there weren't much malls to go to in nearby Cagayan De Oro City yet, but it didn't really matter. My family got closer because of the family activities on weekends. How about the tension between Christians and Muslims? It does exist, but only to an extent. I'll never forget that the first friend who gave me a friendship bracelet was a Muslim. Yes, Mindanao in my mind will always be beautiful.

They say that once you hit college, you'll realize that one of the most important locations in school is the *tambay* area. Well, the campus of the university I go to is too small to have a *tambayan*. What we have is a hallway that has been dubbed as "the ledge." How it got that name, no one really remembers. Everyone just knows that "the ledge" is that strip of hallway that connects the promenade to the first floor classrooms and the cafeteria area. It's usually the most populated place in school, where people meet up in between breaks or walk through on their way to classes. Yes, you can say that the ledge is our *tambayan*, the unofficial center of student life. Wading through different sounds—conversations, the strumming of a guitar, theater members practicing their lines, someone studying out loud—has taught me much about my school and the human drama.

These are just two of the pictures in my gallery of memories. Time may physically alter the way they look, but it doesn't really matter. They will always be priceless to me.

The author is a charming little devil with a unique world of her own.

E-mail the author at anario@lycos.com

To Disneyland and beyond

By Mariless V. Villamar
2bU! Correspondent

THE WAY I think and see things is largely due to the fact that I have been lucky enough to travel and see the world early in my life. It's a good thing I have parents who understand and even encourage wanderlust.

As a child, the only reason I looked forward to going to the United States on summer vacations with my family was that we would be going to my favorite amusement parks like Disneyland and Great America.

When I reached adolescence the excitement was still there but for totally different reasons like being able to buy clothes no else would be wearing back home.

I remember during my first trip to the US, my sister and I made friends with some girls from my *tita*'s neighborhood. There was no feeling of being different from them or any awkwardness at all, and we just wanted to play. I thought to myself that despite the fact that they were blonde, blue-eyed and had red nail polish, we were basically the same.

Sadly though, I never saw my blue-eyed friends again. They moved to another neighborhood, but I still remember their faces clearly to this day.

Chopsticks

My family was vacationing in Hong Kong and we decided to make a side trip to Shenzen, China.

We had lunch in a small restaurant. My dad was very embarrassed and he was quick to admonish my mom and I for assuming that all Chinese restaurants must have spoons and forks. Soon after I started to learn to use chopsticks.

Wonderful

How can I possibly forget my wonderful Italian experience just two years ago? After graduating from college, my parents finally allowed my sister and I to go on a three-week European tour. It would be the first time we would be traveling without our parents. It was a fun, liberating and absolutely wonderful experience for both of us. I am filled with an overwhelming rush of memories just writing about it.

One important thing my sister and I learned was that it pays to try to learn more about the culture of the country you are going to, especially the language! The trip to Paris was so traumatic that upon returning, I decided to take a basic course in French. One thing I'd like to forget though was when I tripped in front of a group of cute Italian men amidst a chorus of "Bella." I was flustered; you don't get that kind of attention in Manila. Hey, believe me, it's normal for an Italian man to suddenly scream out "Ciao, Bella" to you from across the street, these guys live to woo females.

Dang! I miss Italy. Good or bad, these experiences enhance our character and open windows of knowledge for us. Like my sister, who learned the hard way that someone with very sensitive skin cannot snorkel wearing just a bathing suit. She knows this since she developed a bad case of sea lice bites during a snorkeling expedition in Phuket, Thailand.

Traveling has not only brought me to exotic destinations and ancient towns, but what is truly essential is the bond that I shared with my family and all the people I have come across during all my journeys. That alone, is priceless.

Aside from a love for travel, the author is a certified fashion fiend. She hopes to return to Italy and do some serious shoe shopping.

Nayni's *miracle*

By Chiquit Torrente

She battled for her life and prevailed because of the support of kin and friends

LAST Sept. 29, 9 p.m., a mini bus of UP Diliman freshmen and sophomore students collided with a speeding Bicol Express train in Laguna. It was an "illegal" field trip, not sanctioned by the school, because field trips weren't allowed within two weeks of final exams.

The philosophy class of about 30 students was on its way to Los Baños after a tiring day at Enchanted Kingdom, and some of the students were sleeping soundly in their seats. The van in front of them was dawdling, so the impatient driver zoomed to overtake it, not knowing that a train was crossing. Just as he passed the van, the train slammed into the driver's side. Seventeen-year-old Santanina Versoza, Nayni to friends, was asleep behind the driver. Her body absorbed the impact of the collision.

Nayni was in a coma, and tests showed that although she did not sustain fractures in her body or bleeding in her brain, her brain was swollen due to severe contusions in the head. Her spleen was taken out, her liver, which sustained multiple lacerations, was repaired. Her right lung and stomach were drained of over two liters of blood.

Eleven days after the accident, Nayni was in a state of stupor; her body would thrash wildly about but she was unconscious. Letters, e-mails and prayers—even from strangers—poured into her hospital room at the Medical Center Manila. Nayni was confined for 28 days, with her family watching her slow recovery.

Of course, Nayni doesn't remember this; she doesn't remember the accident at all.

Retrograde amnesia

"I was diagnosed to have retrograde amnesia, a result of my frontal lobe being hit so hard," Nayni said. "I have had to take a leave of absence from UP, where I was a pre-med student at the College of Science. Instead I am undergoing speech therapy and physical therapy."

She has to relearn many things. It is such a joy to watch her rediscover the things she knew before, because she is appreciative and eager. UP has allowed her to sit in classes to audit her subjects so she could prepare for her finals, albeit a semester late.

On Jan. 24, Nayni turned 18. She had a thanksgiving party to celebrate the gift of a second life. During the party, she shared some thoughts about the past several months:

"I thank God for allowing me to make it to my 18th birthday," Nayni said. "I've learned that life is precious and short, and can easily be taken away from us, so we should value the things that really matter—not material things—but building life-long relationships with the people we love and who care for us. And building a relationship with God.

"I've learned that we should focus more on mending and rebuilding our broken relationships with our parents and siblings, friends, and even with ourselves.

"Our families are the ones we spend the largest part of our lives with; they are the ones who will take care of us whatever happens. So we have to take special care of those around us, because they will not be with us forever.

"We have to do something that can contribute to the good of those around us. I've learned that work does not mean only being the best, but also helping others to be their best. As life is short, we have to make it full and productive and never waste time for dilly-dallying, although there should also be time left for leisure and fun!"

Lucky

Nayni's mother, Ima, said one of her best friends remarked that Nayni is very lucky to learn important things in life despite being only 18. The mom said it took her over 40 years to learn what Nayni had experienced.

"To me, she had a spiritual rebirth, even if she doesn't remember anything yet," the mom said. "She was not like this before the accident. Whenever our household help go on vacation I would call on my four kids to volunteer to do housework. Nayni would be the first one to say no, telling everyone that she had a lot of assignments to do and exams to prepare for and that she should be exempted from domestic work because she was running for honors.

"It is amazing how different and positively changed she is now—she would volunteer her services for any kind of work that can make full use of her time, and she is now very expressive and demonstrative of her love for everyone."

Nayni is recovering well. She can drive again and will enrol next semester

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On my own

By Anne Luisa E. Villarico

I prize my independence because it makes me take responsibility for the decisions I make

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

IT has been five years since I left the sanctuary of my home because of my studies, and now because of work. And I must say that the thing that is valuable for me, like air and water, is my independence.

Independence is the liberating experience of being in charge with yourself. I can go wherever and do whatever I please. It's the best thing that has happened in my life.

I had long craved for my independence even before I went to college, because I wanted to solve my own problems and rely on my own judgment and conviction.

Although I don't have enough time to enhance my culinary skills because I often eat out (which consumes almost half of my paycheck), I've learned how to cook because no one will prepare food for me. And I don't mean *prito* or *nilaga*.

I've learned to cure myself when I'm not feeling well. Good thing I rarely get sick. I also learned how to clean up my mess lest I want to have a room that looks like a war zone.

I've learned how to budget and to buy groceries by myself. I make sure I have a list so I won't buy everything I like on the rack. I don't splurge on stuff I don't really need (although I give in to the temptation of buying second-hand comic books because they're cheaper). I also keep track of where my money goes. But I do spend for my guilt pleasures, like the laundromat, because I do not have time to do my own laundry.

I have my own schedule to eat my meals. I just need an alarm clock to wake me up, unlike before when Mama yelled at me endlessly to get up for my class.

Common sense

Even if the metropolis seems to be a one giant maze, I've learned how to move around, familiarizing myself with landmarks and streets. If I'm not really sure where I am going, I ask around. You'll never get lost if you use your common sense.

I have no curfew. I can stay up all night for Saturday "gimmicks," but I am aware when it is time to go home. I would be sober enough to find my way back to my flat. I might not have parents to guard and guide me, but I have tried to be responsible for my own sake.

I am also free to chose hobbies that I can indulge in. I have tried new recreational activities. I've learned not to be afraid to dabble in different pursuits as long as I know I can handle them.

Because of all of this, I have started to establish my identity and to stand on my own. I have learned to be responsible for my own actions. Nobody bothers me in my decision-making, and I am proud if the decision I have made turns out well. I don't have anyone to blame but myself.

Having independence, though not absolute, is challenging. I learn on my own and nurture myself with everyday experiences. I prefer my life this way.

Lui's first taste of independence was when she left her hometown Bicol at age 5 to enter kindergarten in Las Piñas

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Music when soft voices die

By Bunny Anne Gapit
2bU! Correspondent

SUPPOSEDLY, it's a letdown. You have the knack for producing warbles in your head, but can't play a musical instrument. But whoever says songs are measly when they're "merely" done à cappella?

I remember composing my first song at 16. This I owe to a member of a singing trio ("I/just wanted to come in/would you be my friend/is there a place for me in your wonderland"). A horrendous encounter with him who had her heart led me to write a song ("It hurt when she left/with the best thief/I ever met/are you the true owner of my dream/in God's time/she'll finally be mine/in God's time").

Confused and dejected, I later found refuge in the image of a lovely Irish lad who belonged to a renowned foreign boy band ("your Irish eyes/I wanna drown into that ocean/you know I wouldn't mind dying/since they'll be sending me to heaven"). But I was again shattered when I experienced his impudence ("I hear you sing/I don't wanna listen but I hear you sing/I won't come nearer I fear/of falling asleep/and dream of you again").

For so long, the light died in my eyes until it was revived, oddly enough, by a charmer of a mental patient at the National Center for Mental Health where I was a psychology intern. Sadly, I loved him covertly and inconspicuously until the day I was told that he was going to the loony bin for good ("Had I known/it's gonna be the last to see you/had I known/there's no more next time here to seize you/then I shouldn't have power-played/I should have savored you invade/me have these eyes kissed your face/for the longest trance").

Muddling through the years, romance and wishing-for-the-moon pleas filled my songs. ("When I was small/I used to liking things/that's never really grand/no, never, never really grand/but none lived real... so what made me dream/this dream what made me kiss/how's it now when you're my truest wish"). The lack fueled my songs ("I miss you/so much I am worse each day/without you/I mean it this is true/you're never there/but how I really miss you").

All these tunes, though devoid of instrumentation, aren't music any less. Like a mother to her kids, I accept them as they are. How they sing to me of their fathers!

Bunny is a frustrated musician and settles for writing songs à la "banda rito-banda roon"

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At the edge of reason: The Jason journals

By Jason Doplito

> "If not for my diaries, I would swear I had lived only half as long as I have. Long periods of my life seem to have vanished. And even now I read the passages and wonder who I was when I wrote them, for I cannot remember the secrets of my life. There are times I sit and wonder where it all has gone."
>
> —"The Notebook" by Nicholas Sparks

Dec. 2, 1997
5:30 p.m.—Uh, okay. This class is boring. The teacher (I don't even know her name) doesn't even stand or write things on the blackboard. She can't teach without reading her note cards. And that's all she does! She's like a computer program, though at least the computer's nice to look at, with graphics and all. I think I'll start writing my journal.

11:15 p.m.—Saw a very funny graffiti at the Arts/Literature section of the main library: "Dear Oprah, I was raped by Brad, Tom and Antonio Sabato Jr. God, did I love it!—Gwen. PS: I will file a case though. Rape is rape, you know. Wish me luck, okay?"

"Gwen, I don't care about those baboons! Write to me when you're raped by Keannu (and tell me how it went)!—Oprah." He! He!

Dec. 16, 1997
3:15 p.m—Today, I got a taste of the Oblation Run (that didn't sound nice). I had to skip my math. Thanks to my seatmates, I overheard them saying it was at 12 nn. So I hurriedly went to the AS Lobby, and it was jampacked. The runners don't actually run, but walk. Also got to meet with my former blockmates. Told them I didn't get to see anything. Alvin said it was because they were too small. Probably he was right. Then he added that they're gonna join next year's run so they can show the public what they've got. Uh, right.

1997 Dec. 25, 1997
11:25 p.m.—Merry Christmas!

Jan. 1, 1998
12:52 a.m.—Happy New Year!

Feb. 15, 1998
8:04 p.m.—I can't believe I haven't written about "Titanic." Definitely, it's one of the best movies ever made. I've seen it twice already!

May 30, 1998
4:38 p.m.—It's official. Erap is this country's new President. This is as good as it gets. Geez, I would've never imagined this would happen, although I've learned to accept him already. Let's see how he'll handle the country's problems.

June 12, 1998
10:05 p.m.—We just celebrated our Centennial of the declaration of independence. Hours ago, a grand parade was held, with fireworks and all. Nice but too expensive.

Aug. 23, 1998
10:27 a.m.—Right now, I'm enjoying myself (not in some downright way). I feel relaxed. I'm having burger steak for breakfast, one of the few things I enjoy here in Jollibee. Saw "Sliding Doors" yesterday. It was so great! I was paranoid when I got out of the movie house because I kept thinking about the consequences of being ahead or being late.

Dec. 1, 1998
7:44 p.m.—Argh! I'm actually addicted to text messaging. I've been borrowing my sister's phone, and all I do is text for hours! It's nice actually, especially when you're bored. Too bad, though, I don't have that many people to text with.

Jan. 26, 1999
5:27 p.m.—I'm going to be a journalist. At least, I have to be. I just told Ma I can't be an engineering/economics student, that I love to write. And so she agreed. Feels great. At last, I'm free to choose my own career/course. I don't have to fear math ('cause I won't have it *na*). ROTC *na lang*! Waaah...

April 13, 1999
9:18 p.m.—A while ago, I attended a 2bU! correspondents meeting at the INQUIRER office. Saw an advertisement a few weeks ago for writers so I decided to give it a try. I think it's more of a contributor job. I don't know. I just didn't feel that much at home in the meeting. I mean, there weren't even any welcome thingamajigs. Anyway, I have to think of an article to write about. Should I write a review of Jessica Zafra's "Twisted" series, as in I'll trash her books? In that way, I'll be able to create some noise. Nah, I love her.

April 14, 1999
7:22 p.m.—I wish there'd be another 2bU! correspondents meeting just so I'd be able to see that cutie again. He! He!

May 21, 1999
12:34 p.m.—I've browsed through and read some parts of the book, "Mga Panibagong Kulam," by Tony Perez. Honestly, I can't find the courage to do the spells. I mean, being Catholic, it does clash with my beliefs. I should believe in God's power instead. But then, Perez says we do have our own power. Anyway, the good thing is I have something handy when the need arises.

July 9, 1999
9:35 p.m.—Mwahaha... I got in as a writer for the publications and documentations unit of the ROTC. Therefore, I don't have to stand under the sun all Sunday. All I have to do is write. Yes!

July 20, 1999
3:56 p.m.—Things I should have accomplished before I turn 19: a) put on weight; b) have a nice build; c) publish an article in the INQUIRER; d) no pimples.

Sept. 2, 1999
7:21 p.m.—At last, at last! My article got printed in the INQUIRER! I'm so happy! I was really trembling and I couldn't make sense of anything when I saw it. Yahoo!

Oct. 2, 1999
5:27 p.m.—I'm turning 19 in two days. And only one of my four resolutions was met. Waaah... On the 16th, we'll have another correspondents meeting. Hope to see cute person again. Yihee!

Oct. 22, 1999
11:07 p.m.—Grrr... cute person didn't show up at the meeting. Humph. Pam, the assistant chief, really looked snobby; she wasn't smiling. I approached her and I expected her to go, "Hi, so you're Jason," since we had been e-mailing each other, but there was none of that. As if. I'm wondering why all the correspondents look so rich.

Dec. 31, 1999
10:10 p.m.—It's two hours before the millennium and we're all gonna die!!!

Feb. 25, 2000
3:45 p.m.—Someone called me to say that my article last Thursday was good. Her name's Sheryl. Now Sheryl thinks 2bU! appears on another broadsheet, not the INQUIRER. I think she's an idiot.

March 5, 2000
8:30 p.m.—Last Friday, I went to Pam's house. She was really very accommodating. I felt so welcome. We went online, chatted a little and drooled over some pictures. Then I accidentally saw an essay she wrote about me. Quite touching. She's my first ever girl friend (take note of space between "girl" and "friend").

March 11, 2002
1:40 a.m.—Just had my priceless moment earlier this evening. Getting to see my journals again. They've been stored in a box back when we had to transfer homes, and I can't believe I found them again. Can't believe I started writing journals back in 1997. I never realized it has been that long. My reunion with my journal brought some good and bad memories. Was also frustrated because I seemed to have written better before.

It was a wise decision to maintain a journal. I don't think the greatest historian would be able to freeze memories in his/her mind without the help of a journal. A camera or video may be able to record and capture a moment, but it will never be able to capture the emotion felt by the subject. Only writing can. The pen is mightier than the sword? The pen is the mightiest.

Jason has yet to fulfill three of his birthday resolutions made three years ago

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Diploma woes

By Tammy David
2bU! Correspondent

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

WHEN I turned 19 last February, a friend asked for my updated impossible wish list this year. Before I'd give the usual answers: new gadgets, sports cars, hard-to-find toys, a date with any A&F model and ticket to any F1 race. But now I answered, "My high school diploma."

"What?" she cried. "What about that 'Star Wars' trip?" she asked since I'd been bugging everyone last year to donate to my Tammy's "Episode 2" fund.

Well, now that five-year high school life will be coming to an end, nothing—not even Hayden Christensen or my rejection letters to the top 3 schools—matters anymore since I'm having problems with school and it's my ultimate wish (it's actually an obligation when you think about it) to graduate. Everybody thinks I'm intelligent and materialistic so it was a bit of a shock when I said that a high school diploma tops my wish list. I admit that I'm not that enthusiastic when it comes to homework. It's not that I hate school, but homework bores me and I'd rather waste my precious time staring at the ceiling rather than read two chapters of a book.

But when I really push myself till I get sick, I can deliver the best way. It's just that I don't push myself too much for fear of being burned out like some of my classmates in the star section (how ironic!).

But ever since I got into major trouble, I tried to change overnight. I would sit down at my desk to study, memorize and understand all of the lessons. I missed a lot of my favorite TV shows and even the first race of the season, even miss out on 2bU! every Wednesday.

Now, since I didn't work hard enough to be able to rant about the boring graduation practices and the hideous graduation attire, I see the high school diploma as something really priceless. Something impossible.

Now that graduation is just around the corner, I still don't know if I'm going to make it

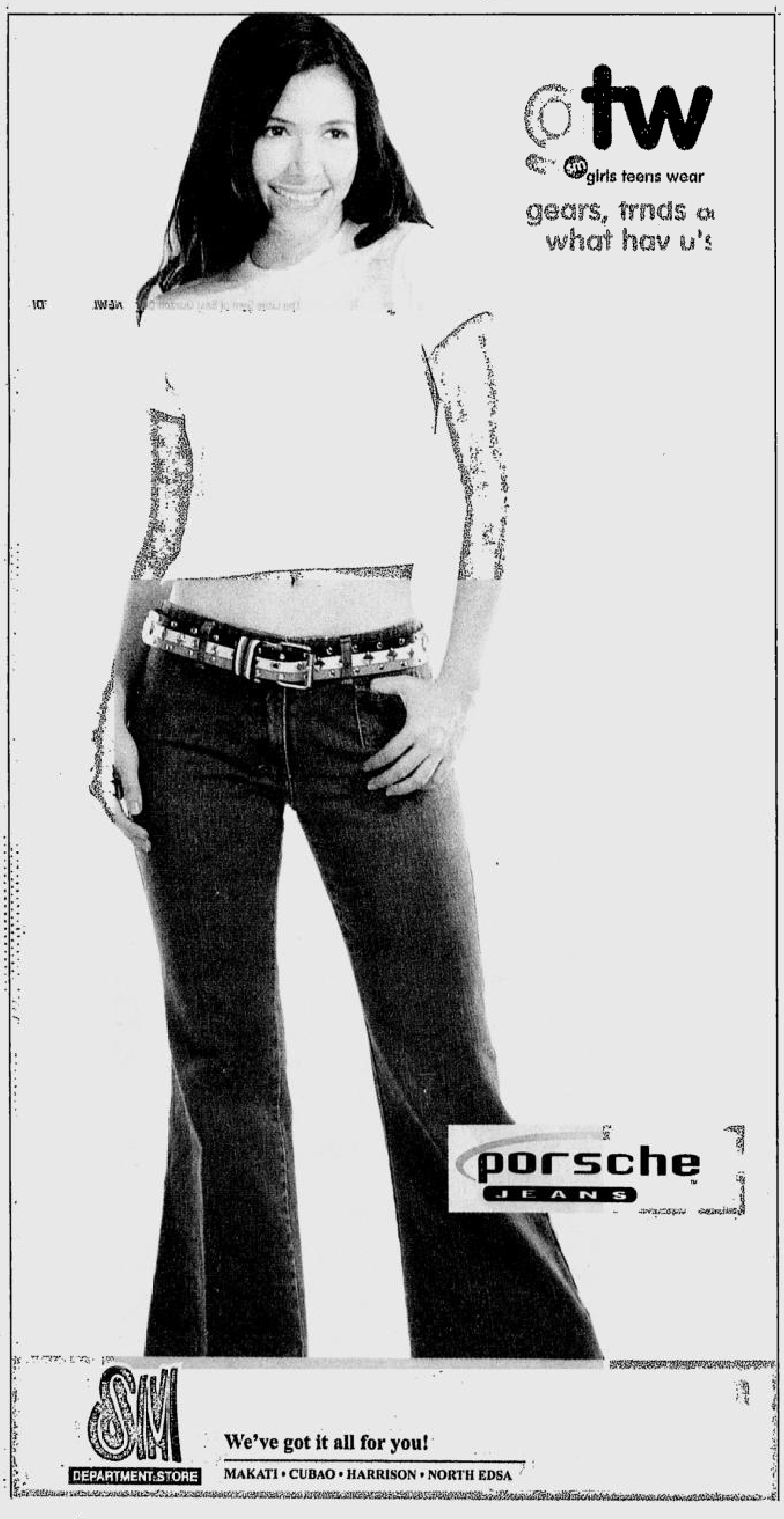
Because of my desire to have one of those framed things some people take for granted, I suddenly became emotional, crying like a sissy whenever I hear "Good riddance" by Green Day, or watch the dumb comedy "High School High," or see my sister's diploma on the wall partly hidden by a Dr. Evil poster collecting dust.

It's a good thing a lot of people believe that I can make it. A few weeks ago I was surprised that my Filipino teacher ("Gng. Ylagan") passed me a note, asking me to promise her that I would join the graduation march. Well, I hope I will. But if I don't, it will hurt of course, but I guess my consolation prize will be my memories of high school.

As you read this, I will be either in the high school library studying for my removal test or in my room, sulking and listening to Coldplay again and wishing I had done this or that. But one thing is for sure, if I get my diploma, I will send Mastercard another idea for its "priceless" commercial series.

Aside from dreaming of graduating, the author dreams of becoming a movie producer and dating Dave Matthews.

E-mail the author at tam_margera@hotmail.com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A bibliophile's treasure

I would rather die than part with my book collection

By Ivy S. Papa
2bU! Correspondent

THERE are lots of things that are priceless for me. My family, of course, first comes to mind. But there are many other things that are absolutely precious to me as well, such as friends (especially those who are my kindred souls—it's very uncanny), the whole UP experience (where my education was not limited to my studies), faith in God (which is even more cherished now after I have gone through a touch-and-go phase in college), innumerable beautiful moments... I can go on and on. Most of them are not very concrete and are already a given for most people besides.

Hence, I thought I'd share something that many people might not have in their lives. I'm talking about the love for books. And I don't mean the "reading is one of my hobbies" type of love. This is more of an *affaire d'amour* with all the usual urgency and insanity.

It all started with my mother, who had fanatically encouraged this passion and to whom I am now very thankful for it was she who initially subsidized the addiction.

To date, I now have over a thousand books, a collection that is still steadily growing in number and variety. Some were given to me, but most of them were bought by me. This particular bibliophilic experience does not start and end with reading books. It's a complete process that includes acquisition, use and maintenance.

The first step can sometimes give as much thrill as the second. I have to admit that most of the books in my collection were bought second-hand at book sales, garage sales and Goodwill or Salvation Army stores. It's not only a matter of economy, but an avocation. I have this penchant for used stuff, not to mention books that are no longer being published. You can just imagine how I feel each time I come across a Newbery Award winner at the bottom of a stack of books at Book Sale. What a find!

The next step goes back to elementary school days. Do you have any idea how lovely Friday afternoons used to be? No school the following day, so you don't have to worry about homework and you can read in peace nonstop until your mother calls you down for dinner, after which, you can just go back to reading.

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

The best reading condition for me would be lying in bed with the afternoon sunlight filtering in the room, a glass of cold drink beside the bed and two types of snack. Either the book will put you in a salty mood or a sweet one. I have often come across characters who share this habit with me. My favorite is Francie Nolan in "A Tree Grows in Brooklyn."

The third step in this process is the actual collecting part. I have met many people who discard their books once they've read them. Haven't they heard of reviewing? I reread my books all the time, especially when I haven't bought a new one in a while. I can't be too critical of these people though. After all, most of my books came from their kind. But I myself would rather die than part with my collection. I cover my books in plastic (an activity, I must confess, I enjoy), put them on my shelves and take pride in the fact that my bedroom resembles a library.

So, there. Besides the little keepsakes from family and friends, my books are the only material treasures I have and the experience of gaining them was just as much a treat and a treasure.

The author majored in Spanish and minored in French at the University of the Philippines in Diliman.

Journals of growing up

By Amelita Melissa R. Remo

I HAVE always kept a journal for as long as I can remember.

My earliest memories date back to the first grade when I kept a little stationery notebook I solemnly called "my diary." I especially liked the scented ones that came with a lock and key and I would try to stash them away in what I thought were the last places my nosy siblings and parents would look for.

Of course, they were smarter than I then so they would find my journals anyhow. Despite futile attempts, I would always try to guard my journal with my life as I've always considered it as my priceless possession.

Ritual

Since then, it has become a daily ritual for me to jot down notes describing my day. Otherwise, I am always nagged awake from my pitiful night sleep if I don't put down a word or two on my diary.

These journals are more than just old pieces of paper stained by blotches of ink, made unsightly by the scrawly handwriting of a 7-year-old. I have always seen them as a constant reminder of my share of life's ups and downs and how I was able to cope with the ordeals of growing up.

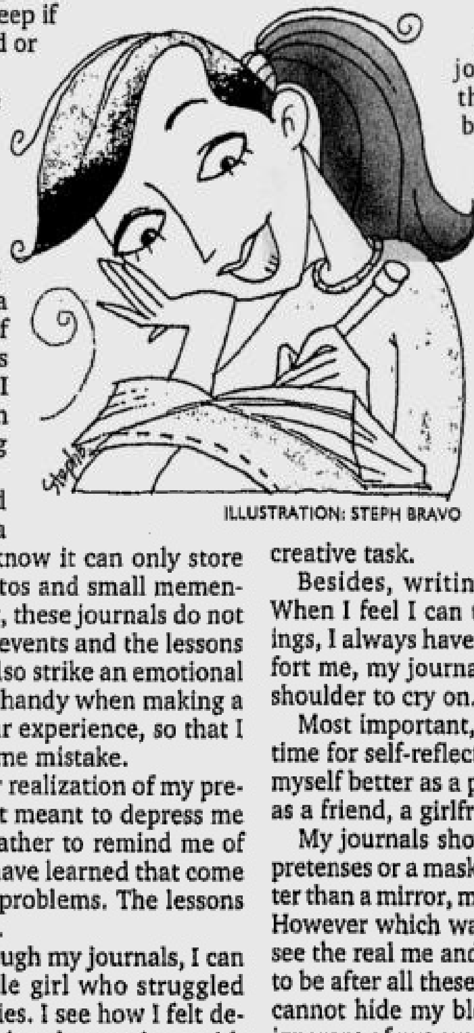

ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Inasmuch as I would like to think I have a very good memory, I know it can only store so much. Whereas photos and small mementos can jog my memory, these journals do not only remind me of the events and the lessons learned, but they can also strike an emotional chord, which comes in handy when making a decision about a similar experience, so that I will not commit the same mistake.

My journal is a sober realization of my previous mistakes; it is not meant to depress me back to the past, but rather to remind me of the valuable lessons I have learned that come in handy when I have problems. The lessons slap me back to reality.

And as I plough through my journals, I can see myself as that little girl who struggled with life's inconsistencies. I see how I felt defeated, how I struggled and moved on with my life after every obstacle. I see how I grew to become the woman that I am today.

On a lighter side, a journal can also be a surefire way to tickle a laugh or two out of me. It's my good 'ol companion during the times when I've nothing better to do but bum around. Indeed it is true when they say, "After a few years, we can look back at this and laugh"—exactly my sentiment! I laugh at my narrow views back then when my world revolved around owning the latest Barbie or being part of the "cool" group or being the first to have the boyfriend in my circle.

'When I feel I can trust no one with my feelings, I have my journal to turn to, a non-human shoulder to cry on'

Outlet

Aside from those, writing journals has been my therapy as I've learned to better control myself emotionally and mentally. For instance, I've learned to divert my pent-up emotions and transform my spiteful passion into something productive one—a passion for writing.

My journals have been my outlet, so to speak. My tendency of getting a tad too violent than what is necessary is refocused on a more creative task.

Besides, writing journals is my refuge. When I feel I can trust no one with my feelings, I always have my pen and paper to comfort me, my journal to turn to, a non-human shoulder to cry on.

Most important, writing in my journal is a time for self-reflection, a time to get to know myself better as a person, as a career woman, as a friend, a girlfriend and a daughter.

My journals show me as a person without pretenses or a mask or any form of facade. Better than a mirror, my journals reflect me as me. However which way I read them, I inevitably see the real me and how I've grown and come to be after all these years. When I read them, I cannot hide my blemishes nor pretend to be ignorant of my own shortcomings.

These journals that serve as a strong link to my past can also give a hint of my person in the future.

A self-professed closet writer, the author vows to make public her works in the future.

The sporting writing life

Dexter R. Matilla
University of Santo Tomas

EVER since I started writing for the Varsitarian, UST's 74-year-old school paper, I always find myself in a typical scene. It goes like this: "Hi! I'm Dexter and I write for the Varsitarian."

"*Talaga? Ano'ng course mo,* Dexter?"

"B.S. Botany."

The reactions I usually get range from amazement to disbelief. People would usually follow up with questions like, "*Bakit iyan ang kinuha mo? Dapat nag-*journalism *ka na lang o kaya* communication arts." I simply smile and that's my reply.

I really enjoy my work in the Varsitarian, especially when I meet new people. Not too many premedical students can say they are as lucky as me. I consider myself to be one fortunate guy because of the opportunity that I have to write for both UST's official student publication and the INQUIRER's Wednesday Lifestyle Section—despite my course being B.S. Botany. Through writing, I am able to freely express myself and reach out to people and entertain them as well.

> The opportunity to write for two top publications is beyond any price, even for a B.S. Botany student

Sports writing

As a sports writer for the Varsitarian, I get to do things normal sports spectators could only dream of, such as sitting in the sidelines and talking to different sports personalities. With a simple flash of the UAAP press card, I get to enter the tightly guarded Araneta Coliseum and watch the best collegiate basketball games in town without having to fall in line or to buy from scalpers for tickets. And the best part of it all is I get paid for doing it by writing an article about the game.

Not only that, but the mere fact that I am able to go places for free is enough compensation for our hard work (by the way, us staffers could have our expenses reimbursed by the Varsitarian after we cover UST-related events).

There was this time last year when my co-sportswriter, Darrell Dizon, photography editor Paul Ryan Pagaspas and I went to Pampanga to cover the Prisaa (Private Schools Athletic Association) games. It was our first time to go to Pampanga so just imagine how stupid we felt when we got there.

Thankfully, we met some staffers from Angeles University's student publication and they gladly helped us out during our stay.

Family

More than anything else, the Varsitarian is like a family to me. Despite the tedious tasks of doing interviews, researching and writing the articles, there are the people who make the stay worthwhile.

Luckily for me, some of those people not only lighten up my day; they also help me to enhance my writing skills, like our publication adviser Joselito Zulueta. I approached "Sir Lito" one day and asked if my co-sportswriter, Christian Bautista, and I could write for 2bU! He arranged for us a meeting with 2bU!'s chief of correspondents, Pam Pastor. The rest was history.

I consider joining 2bU! as one of the best choices I've made so far because it means more people to meet and more articles to write.

My first assignment for 2bU! required me and other staffers to become University of the Philippines students for a day. Just imagine my excitement when I learned I was included (although as a last-minute replacement for a staffer who backed out) in the assignment.

Even though I was the only guy in the group, I had fun. For a day, I became a UP student. I walked along the halls of the country's premiere state university and studied subjects I would normally never learn in genetics or pharmacology (I joined the philosophy majors).

Priceless

Joining the Varsitarian and 2bU! has greatly affected my life.

Although there are times when I feel like quitting, especially when things are going from bad to worse, I am thankful there's one special person whose always there beside me, my girlfriend Bernardette Sto. Domingo. She is definitely the best gift I have received from the Varsitarian.

More than anything else, I consider my life right now to be priceless. There is nothing that anyone can offer me to make me exchange what I have received.

When I'm all wrinkled up and my hair's all gray, I will look back to this article and remember how happy and precious my life has been.

Dexter is a third year B.S. Botany student who likes to play basketball and writes about anything that comes to his mind

E-mail the author at bernardex121@hotmail.com

A picture-perfect life

By Giles Ivan A. Aquino

OTHER people may keep prized possessions in banks or safes at home, but mine are in a photo album.

My photo album tells the story of my past as each picture reveals my identity. Anyone who breezes through its pages need not ask me who I am and what I have become. Through the photos, detailed and vivid, one will know how the freeze-framed moments made me the person I am now.

I have always found comfort every time I look at my photo albums. How I adorned them shows how they have become a part of my life, and how their loss would be a greater sorrow than losing my cell phone or my favorite clothes.

My pictures are windows to my past. They bring back memories bitter and sweet. As I start to flip through the pages of my albums, I break into a smile. I know that once again I will experience the bliss that those pictures have brought me. A page brings backs just memories of birthdays, graduations or tours, but of special relationships, sweet victories, everlasting love, fun-filled journeys, even shattered dreams, true friends and dreams come true.

In my photo albums I find solace. They also provide a reason for my friends and I to get together to relive those moments captured in every shot, eliciting tears or laughter. The pictures connect my friends and I. We walk together along memory lane with those pictures. My photo albums have become journals of my life, our lives.

Every time I have another roll of film processed, I add another chapter to my photo journal. My albums show that life is full of adventures waiting to be experienced. They tell of the many things life has to offer, great and small—from the opening of gifts and blowing of candles to losing a friend and finding your soul mate.

My photo journal is ever so silent yet ever so revealing.

Giles would like to have his picture taken with Donita Rose someday.

E-mail the author at giaquino@edsamail.com.ph

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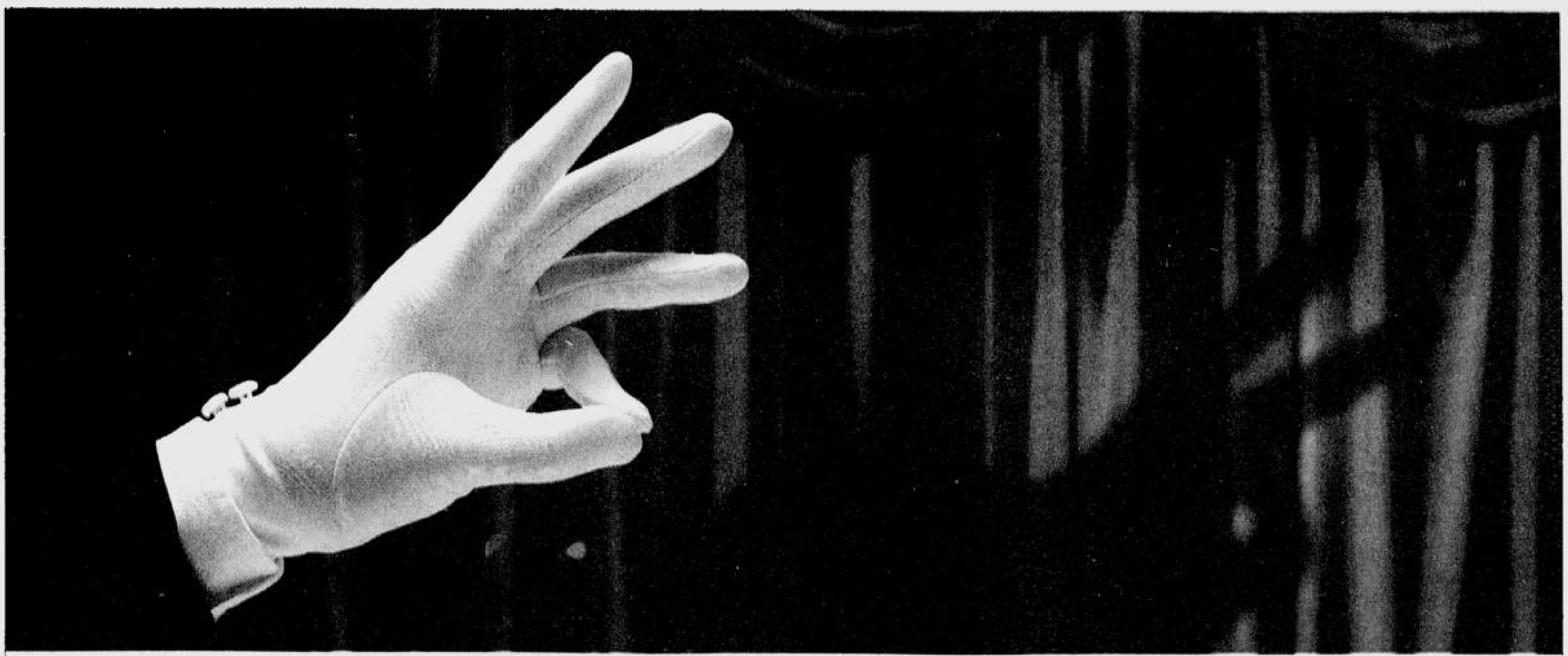

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Per DTI Permit No. 0696 Series of 2002

Makati Shangri-La
MANILA

The INQUIRER hunt is on!
Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0820, Series of 2002

FROM DOWN UNDER. Randy Mendoza and 6-ft-tall Aussie beauty Gail McMahon are first runners-up.

BIKINI BODIES. Lalaine Rosario and Judel Sumay

CUTIES TWO. Second runners-up Jennifer Dittmier and Randy Stametalaky

BEACH BODIES. Grand winners Robin Robel and Clarissa Mercado with Omega's Louie Vargas

WINNERS' CIRCLE. Lalaine Rosario and April Tanhueco

HOT HOSTS. Marc Nelson and Rissa Samson

PHOTOS BY TIM YAP

Here comes the sun!

"F" VIEW. Cher Calvin and a sun-drenched Troy Montero

BEHIND THE BAR. Bert and Louise at Hey Jude!

MODELIZER. Robbie Carmona before the pageant

Tim Yap

DING dong! "Ladies and gentlemen, this is your captain speaking. We have sensed something wrong in our radar and we are heading back to Manila."

Huh? This Asian Spirit flight announcement was met with bewilderment as I was looking forward to a blazin' bold weekend in Boracay island, where I was to be a judge in the Boracay Bodies Model Search. A beach filled with bootylicious bodies and I got to pick—why not? So the thought of going back to Manila made me shudder.

Two minutes after, the bell rang again, and the voice said, "Ladies and gentlemen, we have sensed what was wrong with our radar, so we will proceed to our destination. Have a safe flight." Upon hearing that, we didn't know whether to laugh or cry.

Then it rang again. Now everyone in the aircraft was expecting the worst. In a cheery voice, it said, "Ladies and gentlemen, fasten your seatbelts and enjoy the flight." Whew, that gave the "only in the Philippines" adage another twist. But hey, such moments make Pinoy life more interesting.

Sundown to sunup

I arrived at sunset, went straight to Station 1 where PR supremo **Edd Fuentes'** (himself a proud native of Aklan) The Sun Village Boracay Resorts were situated. It was my first time in this part of the island and, honestly, I loved it. It's that part of Bora where you won't feel you are somewhere at the crossroads of Makati or Malate. Quaint and quiet, Edd Fuentes' latest baby The Sun provided that restful escape fit for weary urbanites.

Then I was drawn to the party sounds (my true colors coming out) from the speakers as modelizer **Robbie Carmona** was overseeing last-minute details. The candidates, in different states of undress, were busy running around the resort. I was busy chatting with iconic chronicler **Maurice Arcache** as he was giving me tips on life's little lessons.

After dinner, the pageant began. One by one, bronzed beach bodies of all sculpted shapes and sizes romped on the ramp—it was show time! They paraded in designer wear—Efren Ocampo, Bergamo, Mike de la Rosa and Pride eXchange swimwear. The judges were having a hard time; the candidates looked great, their bodies sizzling with every turn.

"We are looking for somebody who embodies Boracay's fun, fun spirit," a judge said. Yup, what better way to promote the nation's summer beach capital than by getting hot, young bods to represent it? Plus they get an Omega watch and Philips stuff, aside from cash prizes and countless Boracay getaways (even I would join that contest—if I had the body).

Twenty or so brownouts later, the winners were announced (their photos appear on this page)—second runners-up were **Jennifer Dittmier** and **Randy Stametalaky**; first runners-up were **Randy Mendoza** and **Gail McMahon**, while **Clarissa Mercado** and **Robin Robel** won as Mr. and Ms. Boracay Bodies. The hosts—**Marc Nelson**, **Rissa Samson** and **Lana Asanin**—ad-libbed to death (rather well, actually) to keep the guests entertained.

CLARISSA Mercado at The Sun

Later, we would find ourselves station-hopping, with Hey Jude! or Bazurra being the last stop. There were other parties on the island (**Keren Pascual**'s "Famous" party) so the Manila crowd being the small society that it is, everybody just partied out the whole night at Jude's, with the cold breeze of Boracay embracing the partyphiles as they sipped their martinis and danced the night away.

Events this week

Tonight the "Famous" party happens at Ché at Rockwell. Tomorrow, DJ **Steve Lawler** comes to Manila via NBK and 78 Orange. Then Friday, give in to temptation in a "Wet, Wild and Wicked" swingers' bash, which happens at the Glorietta 2 area, West Drive where two parties occur at the same time. Touch, tease and taste the fun and fetish at Buddha Bar where the ladies are treated to men, men and more men.

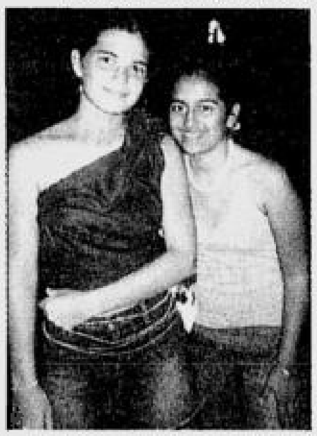
Downstairs, peep shows, aphrodisiacs and lap dances happen at Venezia. Latin Canteen, Mischief and Cyril provide the music for this wildly "sex-citing" night whose credo is to flirt and have fun. Sexy street fashion shows erupt at 9 p.m., so everyone must "come"! ("Temptation Island 2" airs this Sunday night.)

Saturday, prepare for what is touted to be the dance event of the year with Chicane Live at the Casino Filipino Amphitheater. MTV and Smart tie up for this Big Fish rave concert of UK's **Nick Bracegirdle**, a.k.a. the legendary Chicane.

"Our work has always been about giving people a clubbing experience they've never had before," says Big Fish's **Domini Primero**. Gates open at 9 p.m.

ATI-ATIHAN festivities marks the opening of The Sun Village Boracay Resorts.

WITH SEALED LIPS. Lana Asanin and Maurice Arcache



BRIGHT, young things Mariana Zobel and Samantha Hiranand

YOUTH COUNCIL. Leila Kuzma and Kelly Misa

SUN VIEW. Andrei and Uriah at Hey Jude!

WHATTAMEN. Albert Martinez and Marvin Agustin

BAR TENDER. Daphne Oseña, Angel Aquino and Raymund Isaac

F WORD. Edd Fuentes with contestant Glenn Magnifico

Have a bite-free summer

911

Kinny Salas

MOSQUITOES are everywhere! This probably doesn't sound much like a beauty-related article but read on and you'll realize just how relevant this is. You will not believe what is now included in my range of beauty products. Aside from dengue, malaria and other mosquito-related diseases these little pests do make you ugly. They leave your skin swollen with unsightly itchy bites that graduate to gashes, scabs and even scars from constant scratching. There are, of course, the sleepless nights due to their irritating buzzing and biting, which lead to puffy eyelids and dark under-eye circles, assuming they didn't bite those, too.

Solutions: Spray your bedroom, office, or living room with water-based insecticide like Baygon or Raid and vacate for at least an hour. Make sure all windows and doors are closed and you spray every nook and cranny pointing the spray can upward so the insecticide works from up to down. I suggest water-based because it is gentler on us humans and will not leave that nauseating kerosene smell. This is particularly advisable for children's rooms. Cover your beds and put away towels and any object that will come in direct contact with your skin, like clothes and toiletries, or you will practically be rolling in poison.

Just because water-based is gentler doesn't mean it is 100-percent harmless. Plug-in mosquito repellants are safe for kids as well. Place the plug-ins under or beside your children's crib or bed while they are sleeping to enable them to have a good night's rest.

If you have to stay outdoors, mosquito coils and citronella candles will repel them. The latter is better if you have guests as coils do leave an offensive smell and have poisonous fumes for humans. Coils should only be used in open areas and not when one is confined. Oregano plants in pots are apparently nature's mosquito repellants. They may be used as table centerpieces or strategically planted in areas of the garden to ward mosquitoes off. Burn dried *lanzones* peels, which will smoke mosquitoes out of your house and garden.

If you have to move around a lot, you obviously can't spray all the time and lug coils, candles and pots of oregano. Invest in mosquito repellants like Off Lotion or Nenuco M.R. instead. For those who want to smell good and get a beauty benefit from it, try Avon's Skin-So-Soft lotion, which, I accidentally discovered, could repel mosquitoes. Another discovery of mine is Bench's b2o lotion, which smells good to us but not to mosquitoes so it leaves skin soft and smooth.

While sleeping, I have noticed that strong air-conditioning no longer wards all mosquitoes off and neither does the electric fan unless you aim it straight at you, which can make you sick. I apply mosquito-repellant lotion on my ears and pat on my neck and face, avoiding the eyes, mouth and nostrils area. I then apply liberally to my hands and arms. The result is a good night's sleep with no scratching and irritating buzzing by my ear.

Have a problem with these buggers constantly hovering above your head? You most likely have oily hair and scalp, which generates more heat that attracts them. Switch to an oily-hair shampoo and scrub scalp well. If you only shampoo once a day, try doing so at nighttime so mosquitoes don't hang around you when you are sleeping and defenseless to ward them off.

What to do with bites that are already there? Calamine lotion relieves itching so bites will subside without the risk of scarring by scratching. Marks from old bites? Bleach them with hydroquinone.

For any questions or products you want to road-test, write to Makeover 911, PDI Lifestyle or fax to 897-4805

She gets tongue-tied whenever she gets compliments

Carlos Garchitorena & September Mabino

DEAR Sep and Caloy,

I get tongue-tied whenever someone gives me a compliment, so much so that I usually end up saying—and doing—nothing at all. What usually happens afterward is that the one complimenting me gets miffed. One even stopped greeting me altogether. Can you please tell me how to accept compliments graciously? Thanks a lot.

TRIX

Contrary to popular opinion (or what some will term as common sense or mere politeness), the art of receiving compliments is not as easy as smiling and saying, "Thank you." There are people like you who really don't know how to take compliments the right way and their reasons can be as varied as an inherent distrust of others' praises or a different self-image that doesn't quite match with the compliment, etc.

I'm not saying that these are your reasons—you have your own to figure out. But as to how to start accepting compliments graciously, I guess there wouldn't be any harm to do the common practice, which is simply saying "Thanks," and giving them a little smile. Try to fight back that tongue-tied state and tell yourself you deserve the compliment. Or, say, if someone tells you she likes your outfit or your hairstyle or whatever, answer with "Yeah, I like it, too."

I think the gracious way of accepting compliments, in whatever manner, includes being honest in thinking that the other person's praise is valid. That's why you should acknowledge the good things that are being said about you. You deserve them. Unless, of course, you know that it's already blatant flattery, then you can tell off whoever is messing around with your head.

SEP

Lucky you to have such a problem. You should get together with the "I have no friends" girl. Really, a lot of people will find your situation not a problem at all.

Try standing in front of a mirror and appraise yourself... generously and cautiously. Compliment yourself aloud, forgetting the movies where the sleazy cheeseball winks at himself, telling himself that he is the golden god of his pitiful circle. Self-realization is the first step to transcendence. This also helps in practicing your game—face of surprise, knowing and smug acknowledgement.

Also, take note of the particular regions that often crop up in conversations, and learn to use these valuable features to your advantage. They obviously make you stand out in a crowd. For example, if someone comes up to you and says, "Whoa, those are child-bearing hips if I ever saw any," then you could respond by saying, "Yes, I find them particularly useful for doing laundry."

Or, if you are embarrassed by a particular body part, humor is a nice way of breaking the tension. Example: "You have such a beautiful nose." Humorous reply: "Thank you, it was hand-picked." Of course, your life would be much simpler if you were Gary Lising. You'd probably be less flattered for looks, but when flattery did come, they'd know exactly which body part to shove it up.

CARLOS

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Snapshots in my mind

All the pictures in the world can never fully capture the beautiful moments of my life

ILLUSTRATION: ALBERT RODRIGUEZ

Don't even have pictures, just memories to hold, that grow sweeter each season, as we slowly grow old.—**Toad the Wet Sprocket, "Walk on the Ocean"**

WHENEVER I flip through my high school albums, I feel different emotions. Looking at pictures of myself and my old *barkada*, the parties and soirees I've gone to, the candid moments, the formal events and everything else in between just makes me feel I wish I could turn back time and relive high school all over again.

These pictures bring me back to where some of my most unforgettable and decidedly forgettable moments took place. Faces leap up at me as I turn each page, familiar faces of people who have their own special place carved in my memory. Some were no more than vague acquaintances, others once bitter enemies, still others dear friends whose company I enjoy until now. Friends who have come and gone, friendships lost and regained, people missed and forgotten, everything I hold dear and wish to let go is captured in these snapshots.

Well, almost everything. I can't help but feel like something's always missing, like shots I could've taken or a batch of photos that somebody has borrowed but hasn't returned.

But then again, all the pictures I have aren't and will never be enough to capture all the special moments in my life. I guess that's what memories are for. If there were some way I could take my brain, transform it into a bunch of negatives and have them developed, I would definitely be more than happy to do it right away. But unless an Albert Einstein incarnate comes up with something, I'd have to make do with my mental album of cherished memories. And now that I think about it, that's not exactly such a bad thing—at least I won't have to spend an imaginary fortune in prints.

Ma. Angela V. Ignacio

The author is a hyperactive PlayStation-happy 8-year-old trapped inside the body of a stressed-out 19-year-old.

E-mail the author at aoshi_no_miko @hotmail.com.

A lesson unlearned

By Melissa Telan
2bU! Correspondent

RUMMAGING through my things one night, I dug up something I haven't seen for a long time—my grade school autograph book. I began to smile as I was flooded with wonderful memories of carefree days and former classmates as I leafed through its pages.

Typical entries were: Dedication: "Thanks for letting me sign your nice slum book. TCCIC (Take Care 'Coz I Care)"; Describe your crush: "Secret"; What's your most unforgettable moment: "When I slipped in front of my crush at the canteen."

Re-reading my classmates' slum book entries reminded me of one of the things that occupied our minds back then: first crushes. They were either celebrities or schoolmates (I went to a coed grade school). Mine was a schoolmate.

I was in grade five when I first felt the stirrings of young love. My first crush was a grade ahead of me. He was lanky and bespectacled—not *crush ng bayan* material, although my friends said he looked cute. To me, he was the best-looking guy in school.

I couldn't recall any first encounter, but I would notice him whenever I saw him with someone I knew. As I started to see him more often, I felt strange new emotions. My heart would skip a beat or my stomach would do cartwheels when our paths crossed. Sometimes, our eyes would lock for a second or two. The eye contacts were probably accidental but, naïve as I was, I harbored illusions that he was as aware of me as I was of him.

I thought of confiding in my friends, but paranoia got the better of me. I was scared that they might unintentionally reveal my secret and he would find out about it. Not that it would make a lot of difference since he didn't know who I was.

But, like all secrets, it was soon out in the open. One day, a classmate returned a notebook she borrowed from me and said, with a grin, "I saw what you've written at the back." I immediately turned to the last page and saw to my horror that it was filled with thoughtless scribbles of my crush's name. The next day, the news reached others. One or two classmates graciously offered to introduce me to him, "He's my *ate's* classmate, just tell me when you want to meet him," while some devised plans to get him talk to me. Though I appreciated their trying to help, I wanted to get to know him without anyone's help so I profusely declined the offers and told my friends not to mention the topic again.

My paranoia increased after that. I began to avoid him, simply stealing glances once in a while, because I was afraid that even just by looking I would give myself away. Then the school year ended.

I realized how foolish I was to forego a chance to meet him because I was waiting for the right moment

The following year I didn't see much of him and I heard he left for the States the year after that. The accidental meeting I was waiting for never happened. Looking back, I realized how foolish I was to forego a chance to meet him because I was waiting for the right moment.

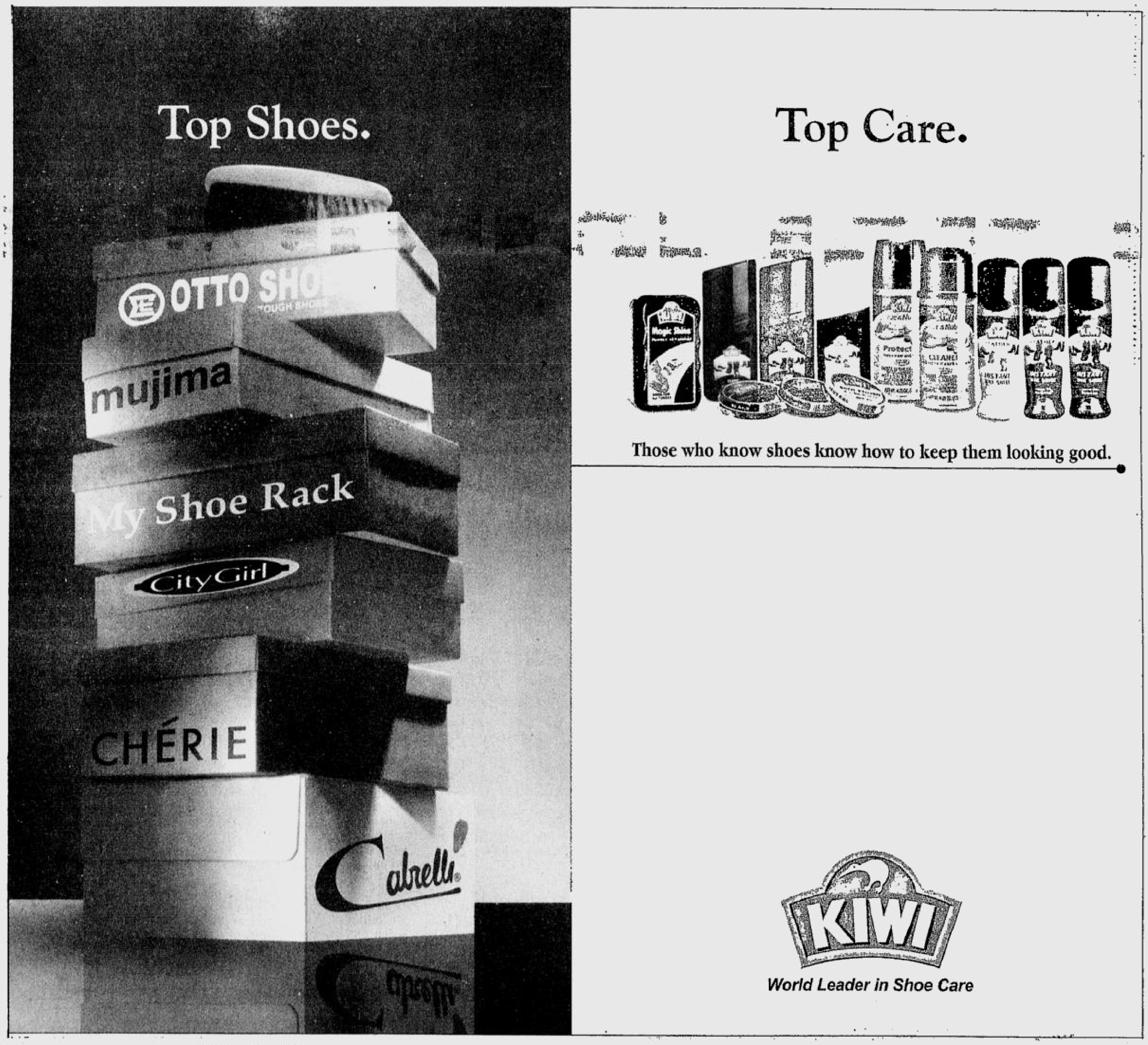
Though I risked revealing my feelings by asking a classmate or even an acquaintance he was always with to introduce us, it would still have been better to have done so instead of wondering years later what could've happened if only I did something. It's sad that I never got to talk to him because I was too afraid.

Sometimes, we miss the most beautiful moments simply because we refuse to make the first move and choose to sit down and wait. But I was young then, what did I know?

The tragic thing is, I still haven't learned my lesson.

The author is a sophomore Philosophy major at the Ateneo de Manila University. She has recently given up stalking her crushes.

E-mail the author at melissatelan@ yahoo.com



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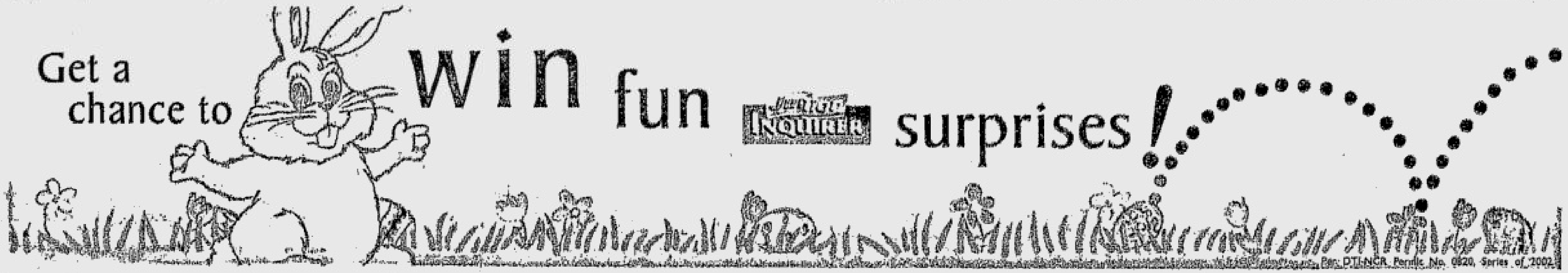
Top Care.

Those who know shoes know how to keep them looking good.
KIWI
World Leader in Shoe Care



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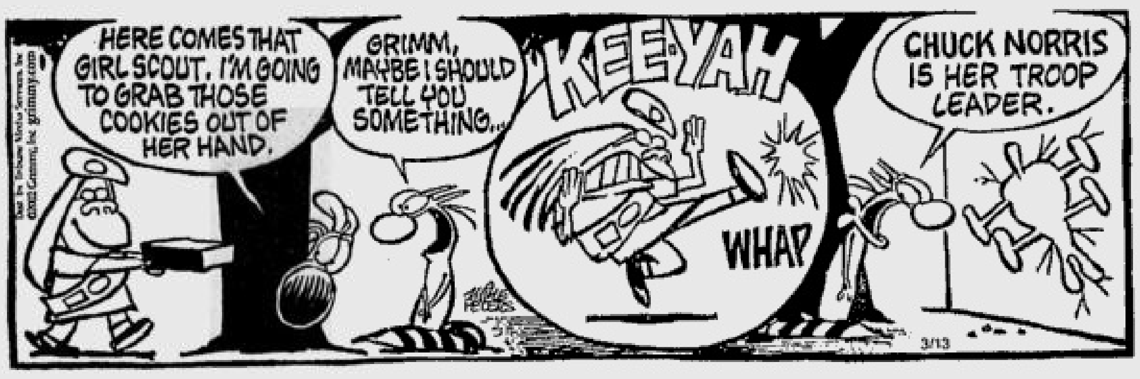
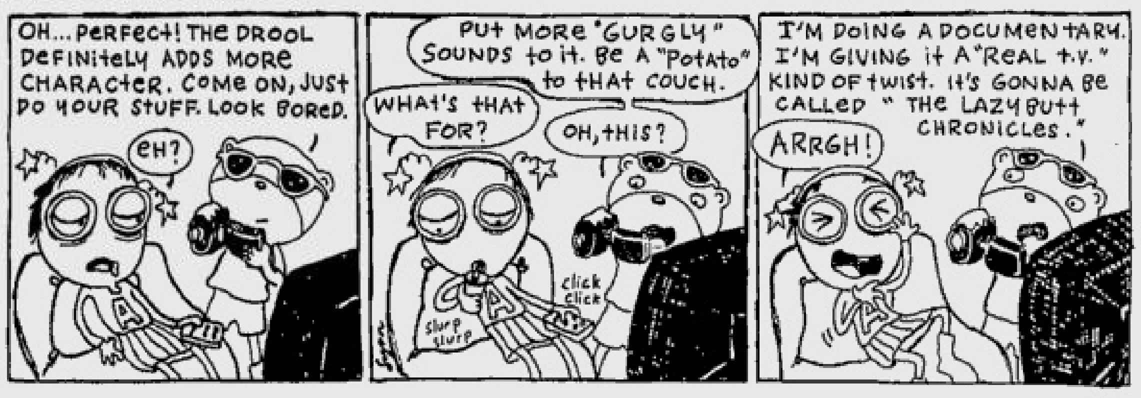
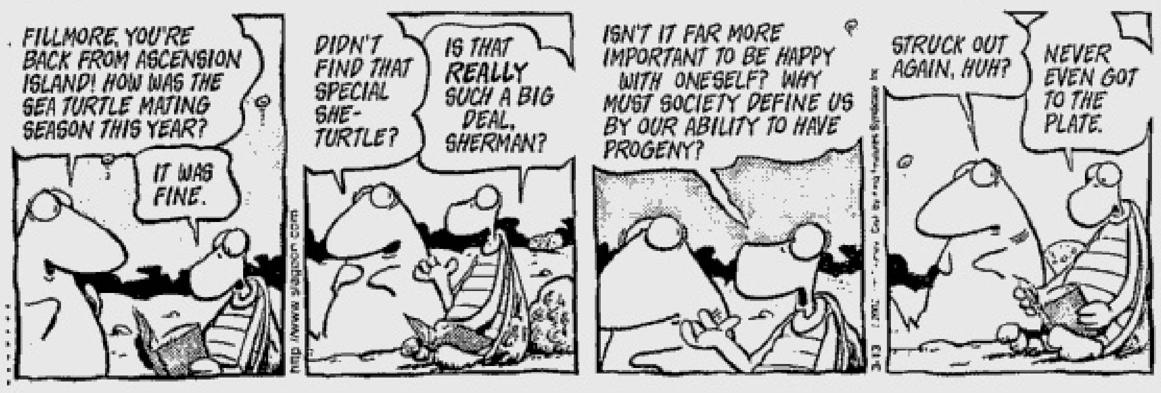
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM BY MIKE PETERS


HERE COMES THAT GIRL SCOUT. I'M GOING TO GRAB THOSE COOKIES OUT OF HER HAND.
GRIMM, MAYBE I SHOULD TELL YOU SOMETHING...
KEE-YAH
WHAP
CHUCK NORRIS IS HER TROOP LEADER.
3/13

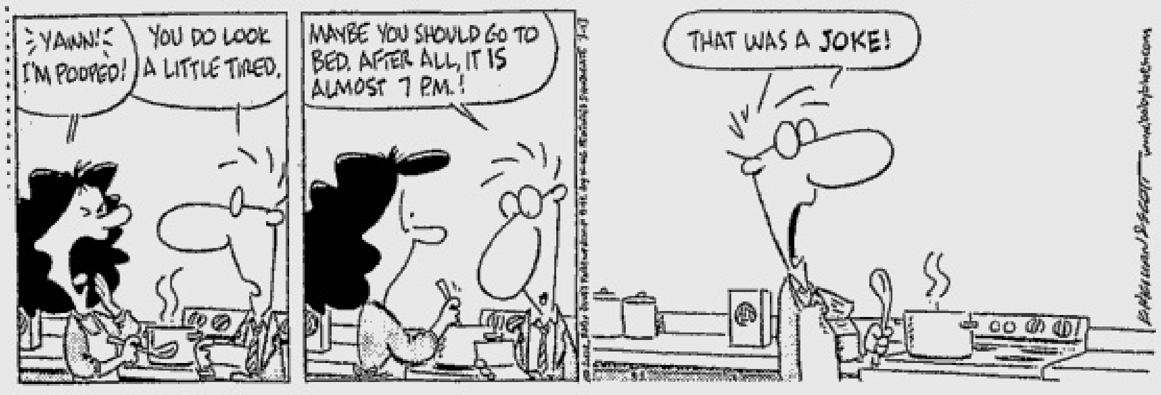
ATOMO AND WEBOY BY LYRA GARCELLANO


OH... PERFECT! THE DROOL DEFINITELY ADDS MORE CHARACTER. COME ON, JUST DO YOUR STUFF. LOOK BORED.
EH?
PUT MORE "GURGLY" SOUNDS TO IT. BE A "POTATO" TO THAT COUCH.
WHAT'S THAT FOR?
OH, THIS?
slurp slurp
click click
I'M DOING A DOCUMENTARY. I'M GIVING IT A "REAL T.V." KIND OF TWIST. IT'S GONNA BE CALLED " THE LAZY BUTT CHRONICLES."
ARRGH!

SHERMAN'S LAGOON BY JIM TOOMEY


FILLMORE, YOU'RE BACK FROM ASCENSION ISLAND! HOW WAS THE SEA TURTLE MATING SEASON THIS YEAR?
IT WAS FINE.
DIDN'T FIND THAT SPECIAL SHE-TURTLE?
IS THAT REALLY SUCH A BIG DEAL, SHERMAN?
ISN'T IT FAR MORE IMPORTANT TO BE HAPPY WITH ONESELF? WHY MUST SOCIETY DEFINE US BY OUR ABILITY TO HAVE PROGENY?
STRUCK OUT AGAIN, HUH?
NEVER EVEN GOT TO THE PLATE.

BABY BLUES BY JERRY SCOTT


YAWN! I'M POOPED!
YOU DO LOOK A LITTLE TIRED.
MAYBE YOU SHOULD GO TO BED. AFTER ALL, IT IS ALMOST 7 P.M.!
THAT WAS A JOKE!

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Robert Woods, Larry Solway, Neil Sedaka

Happy Birthday: Your insight into future trends will enable you to make the right choices for yourself and those who depend on you. Self-indulgence and escapism will result if you start to feel sorry for yourself. You've got what it takes to move forward in a positive direction. Your numbers are 15, 28, 31, 36, 42, 48

ARIES (March 21-April 19): There may be an opportunity to invest in something today. Your financial situation should improve if you sign new contracts or make agreements that are binding.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): You will make new friends and meet new people if you join in and help campaign for something you believe in. New partnerships can lead to prosperity.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): You may misunderstand someone who is trying to explain your duties. Ask questions if you feel that you aren't quite sure. Don't blame yourself if something doesn't work.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): You will have a greater interest in foreign cultures today. Be sure to ask questions regarding tradition if you have the good fortune of attending a cultural event.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Put a little effort into your home. You will feel so much better if you are happy in your surroundings. Investments made today could lead to good fortune.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): This is a great day to express your feelings. You will discover that people do want to help you. All you have to do is ask.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Let your unique ideas lead you to the success you've been looking for. You will have a different way of looking at things that could help someone around you solve whatever problem he or she faces.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You will learn something interesting today if you take part in something that will bring you in contact with people from different walks of life. Check out activities that will provide you with exercise.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You may suffer problems at a personal level if you have been avoiding issues with loved ones. Deal with any problems head-on. Once you have cleared the air you will feel much better.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): If you communicate well with others you will find it so much easier to complete whatever task you are asked to do. You can form good relationships with new friends if you compromise and lend a helping hand.

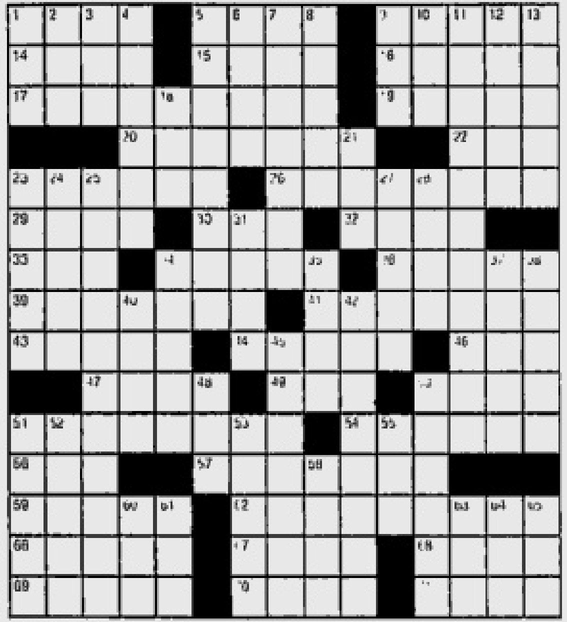
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You may be tempted to jump from one thing to another today. Look at all your options before you take a leap of faith. You may want to do a little more research before you make your final decision.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You should be finding new forms of entertainment. Your creative sense may lead you to try your hand at something unique. Travel will lead to all sorts of possibilities and new friendships.

Birthday Baby: You are decisive, competitive, and fond of debate. You have the ability to think clearly, but can show extreme impatience and impulsive behavior when you don't get your way.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Vivian O. Collins
Leesburg, GA

3/13/02

ACROSS
1 At the summit of
5 Puerto ___
9 Paramount
14 Actress Anderson
15 Verdi song
16 Yawning wide
17 Two-time Best Actor Emmy winner
19 Word with nose or numeral
20 Dupes
22 Before, to Burns
23 Hindu nobles
26 Head shrinkers
29 Ken or Lena
30 Welcome site
32 Flutie or Henning
33 Intention
34 Tall stories
36 Social rank
39 Joining together
41 Receive by bequest
43 Sleep noisily
44 Land units
46 Classic lead-in
47 Greater omentum
49 Author Stout
50 City in Transylvania
51 Trickery: var.
54 "...___ no place like home"
56 Pixie
57 Two-footed
59 Sun-dried brick
62 TV role for 17A
66 Becomes weary
67 Starchy root
68 Pass out cards
69 Marsh plant
70 Disparaging remark
71 Option word

DOWN
1 Swiss mountain
2 Shoe part
3 Toronto's prov.
4 Baker's item
5 Huck Finn, e.g.
6 Remsen and Levin
7 Of eyelashes
8 Like the old bucket of song
9 Besmirch
10 In the past
11 "Maverick" star
12 Creative movement of the '60s
13 Auberjonois and Descartes
18 Cheerleader's word
21 Dejected
23 Wanders about
24 Foreign
25 Another role for 11D
27 Leven and Lomond
28 Christmas season
31 Primitive plant
34 Traffic jam
35 Noble address
37 Colander
38 Greek porticos
40 Neutral color
42 Adjacent
45 Like an underground chamber
48 Tennis shot
50 Mislead
51 Preliminary races
52 Classic single
53 Scottish garb
55 Actor Linden
58 Beige
60 Request charity
61 180-degrees from WNW
63 Singer Torme
64 ___ mitzvah
65 Grand Opry

Tuesday's Puzzle Solved

V	E	I	L	■	P	L	O	W	■	B	R	E	T	T
A	R	N	E	■	H	E	R	A	■	E	E	R	I	E
S	L	E	E	P	O	V	E	R	■	A	V	I	L	A
T	E	X	■	R	E	E	L	■	T	R	A	C	E	R
■	■	T	R	I	B	E	■	A	H	E	M	■	■	■
S	T	R	O	D	E	■	O	V	E	R	P	A	S	S
I	R	E	N	E	■	T	R	E	S	S	■	R	K	O
T	O	M	S	■	P	A	D	R	E	■	S	T	I	R
U	N	I	■	M	A	K	E	S	■	T	O	N	E	R
P	A	S	S	O	V	E	R	■	A	R	M	O	R	Y
■	■	■	O	M	E	N	■	A	D	I	E	U	■	■
S	C	A	L	E	D	■	O	M	O	O	■	V	A	S
A	A	R	O	N	■	O	V	E	R	S	L	E	E	P
P	A	I	N	T	■	R	E	N	E	■	S	A	R	A
S	N	A	G	S	■	E	N	D	S	■	D	U	O	S

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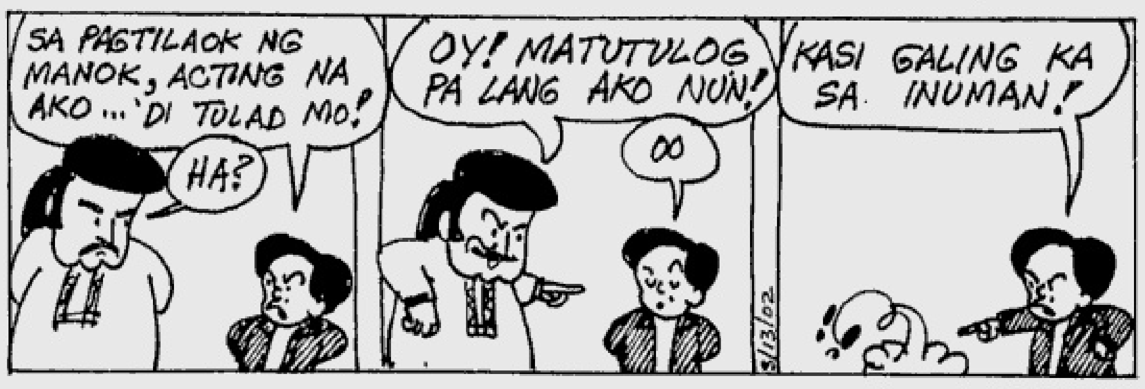
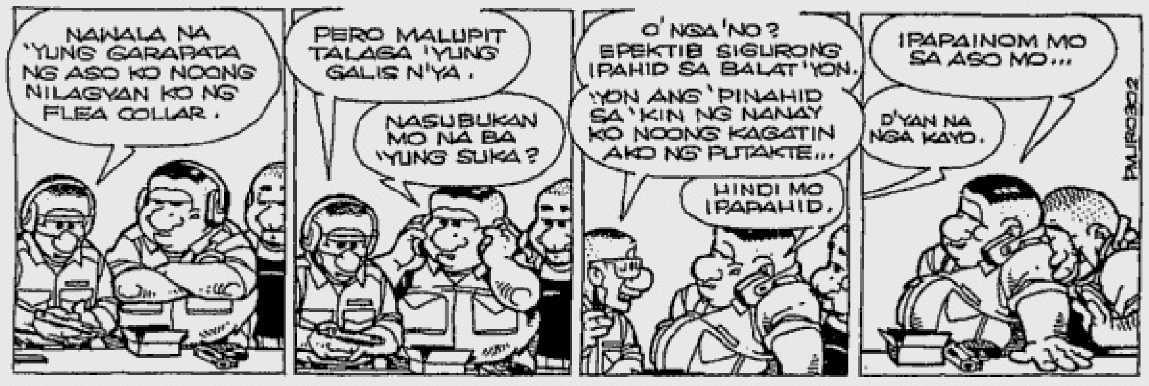
3/13/02

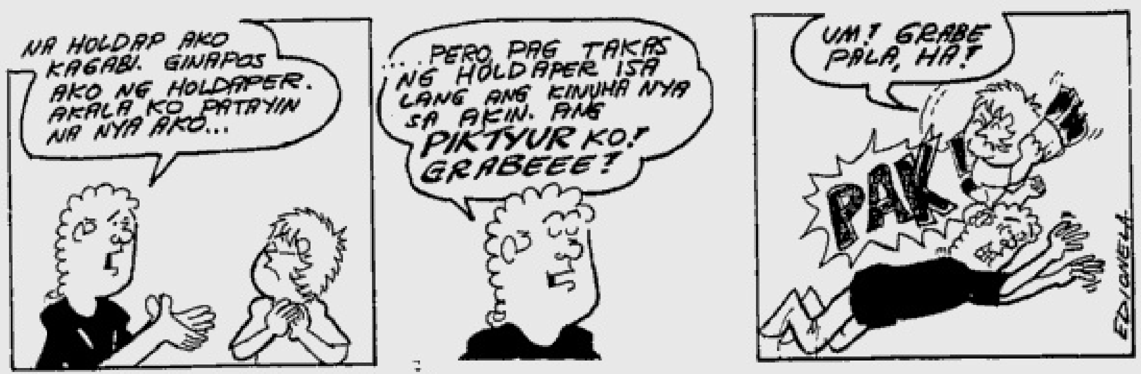
A. LIPIN BY JESS ABRERA


SA PAGTILAOK NG MANOK, ACTING NA AKO...'DI TULAD MO!
HA?
OY! MATUTULOG PA LANG AKO NUN!
OO
KASI GALING KA SA INUMAN!
3/13/02

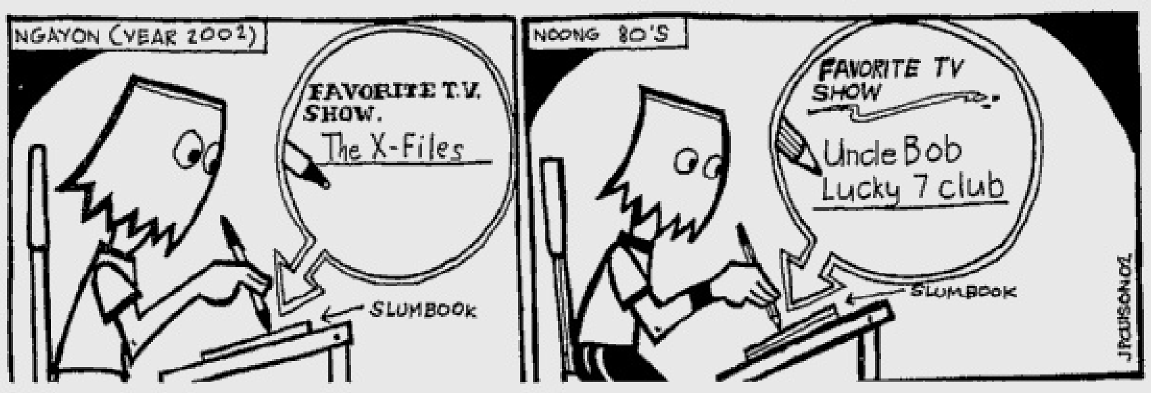
PUGAD BABOY BY P.M. JUNIOR


NAWALA NA 'YUNG GARAPATA NG ASO KO NOONG NILAGYAN KO NG FLEA COLLAR.
PERO MALUPIT TALAGA 'YUNG GALIS N'YA.
NASUBUKAN MO NA BA 'YUNG SUKA?
O' NGA 'NO? EPEKTIB SIGURONG IPAHID SA BALAT 'YON.
'YON ANG 'PINAHID SA 'KIN NG NANAY KO NOONG KAGATIN AKO NG PUTAKTE...
HINDI MO IPAPAHID.
IPAPAINOM MO SA ASO MO...
D'YAN NA NGA KAYO.
PMJR0302

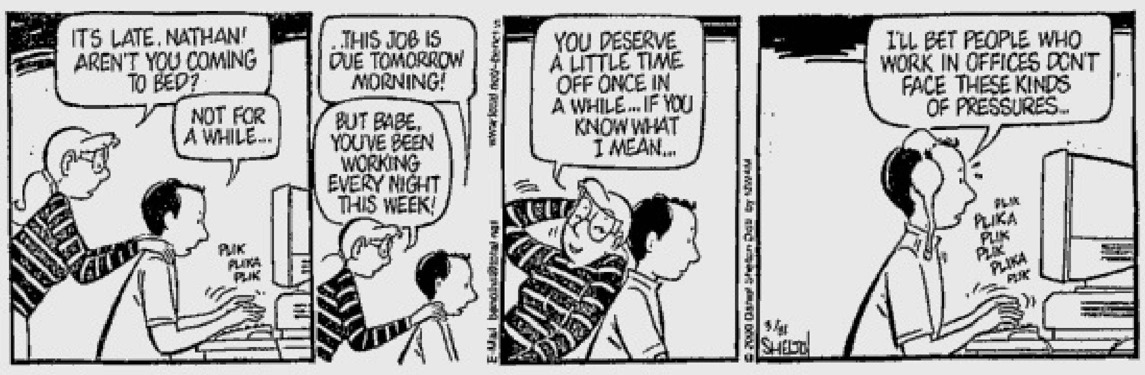
SIMO BY EDGAR DIONELA


NA HOLDAP AKO KAGABI. GINAPOS AKO NG HOLDAPER. AKALA KO PATAYIN NA NYA AKO...
...PERO PAG TAKAS NG HOLDAPER ISA LANG ANG KINUHA NYA SA AKIN. ANG PIKTYUR KO! GRABEEE!
UM! GRABE PALA, HA!
PAK!
EDIONELA

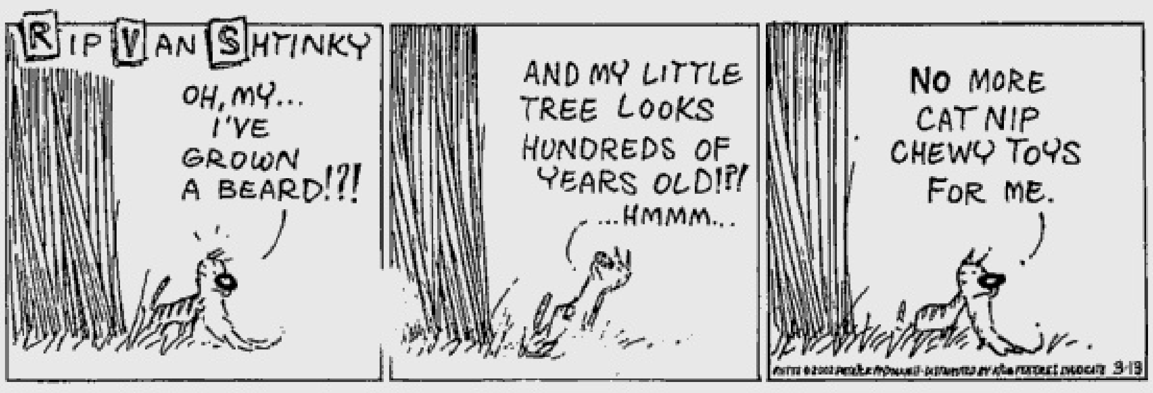
GARAPATA BLOOD BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


NGAYON (YEAR 2002)
FAVORITE T.V. SHOW.
The X-Files
SLUMBOOK
NOONG 80'S
FAVORITE TV SHOW
Uncle Bob Lucky 7 club
SLUMBOOK
JPCUISON02

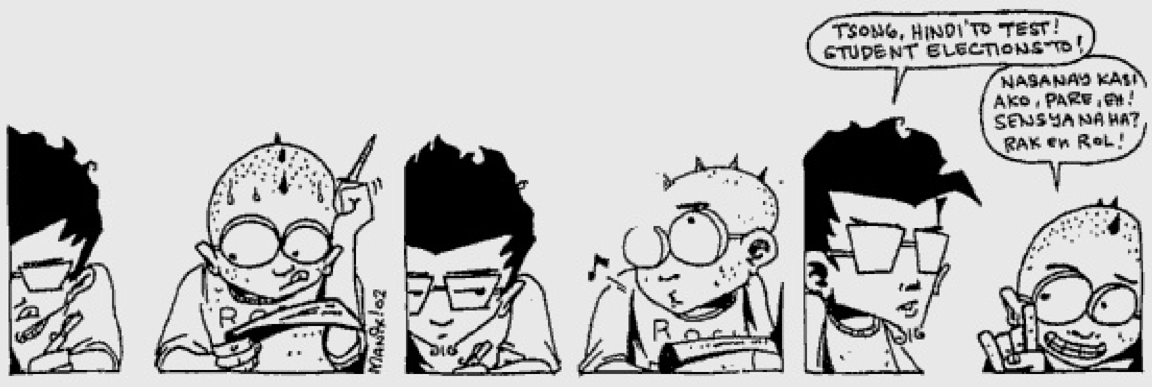
BEN BY DANIEL SHELTON


ITS LATE, NATHAN! AREN'T YOU COMING TO BED?
NOT FOR A WHILE...
PLIK PLIKA PLIK
...THIS JOB IS DUE TOMORROW MORNING!
BUT BABE, YOU'VE BEEN WORKING EVERY NIGHT THIS WEEK!
YOU DESERVE A LITTLE TIME OFF ONCE IN A WHILE... IF YOU KNOW WHAT I MEAN...
I'LL BET PEOPLE WHO WORK IN OFFICES DON'T FACE THESE KINDS OF PRESSURES...
PLIK PLIKA PLIK PLIK PLIKA PLIK

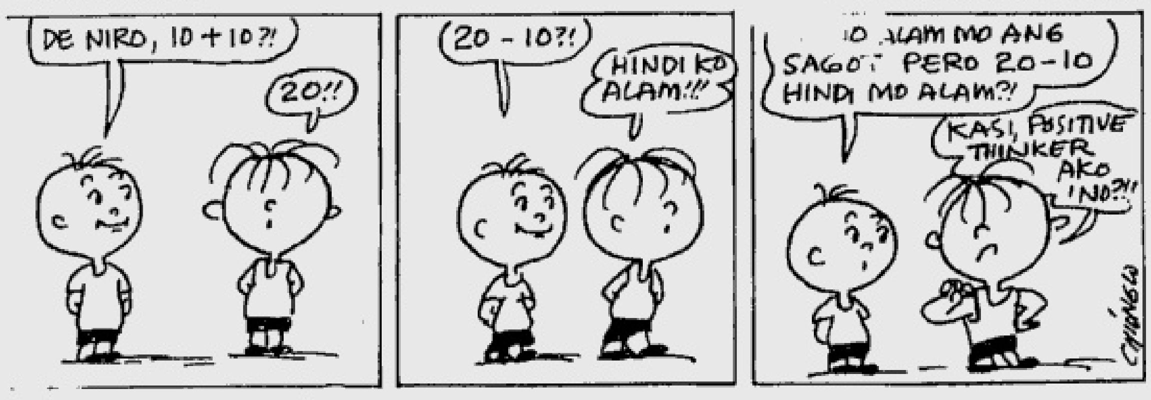
MUTTS BY PATRICK McDONNELL


RIP VAN SHTINKY
OH, MY... I'VE GROWN A BEARD!?!
AND MY LITTLE TREE LOOKS HUNDREDS OF YEARS OLD!?!
...HMMM...
NO MORE CAT NIP CHEWY TOYS FOR ME.
3-13

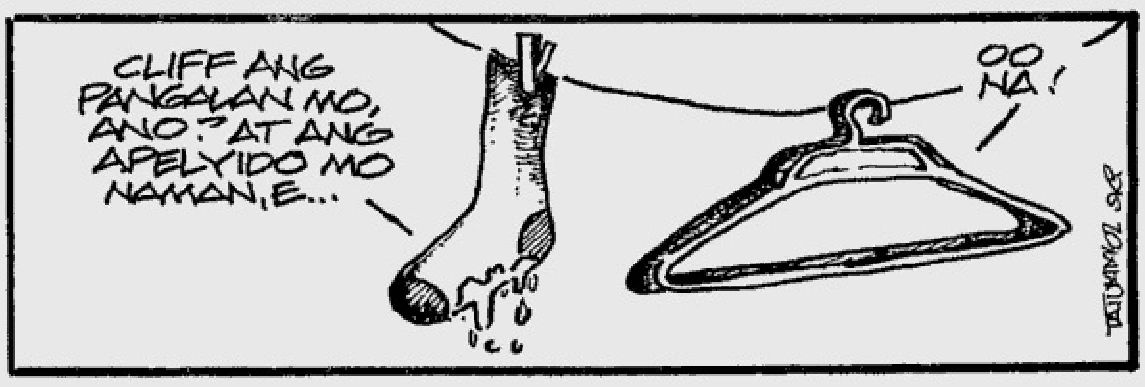
KIKO MACHINE BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, HINDI 'TO TEST! STUDENT ELECTIONS 'TO!
NASANAY KASI AKO, PARE, EH! SENSYA NA HA? RAK EN ROL!
MANIX02

LOVEKNOTS ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


DE NIRO, 10 + 10?!
20!!
(20 - 10?!
HINDI KO ALAM!!!
O ALAM MO ANG SAGOT PERO 20-10 HINDI MO ALAM?!
KASI, POSITIVE THINKER AKO 'NO?!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


CLIFF ANG PANGALAN MO, ANO? AT ANG APELYIDO MO NAMAN, E...
OO NA!

2BU! SURVEY:

What material possession is priceless to you?

By Catherine Young
2bU! Correspondent

NO matter how much you try not to be materialistic, there is always that one thing you can't live without. Okay, maybe that's exaggerating, but heck, you know you have a certain "most prized possession" that you would not want anyone or anything to take away from you. Whether it's expensive jewelry or some ratty thing you have had since you were in your crib, you know there's only one word to describe it: priceless.

Here's a look at the material things young people can't do without:

All the letters and greeting cards from my friends and loved ones.—**Pammie, 18, Ateneo de Manila University**

A gift or object that someone made herself or himself, like a letter. But I like my baby blanket, too.—**Tara, 18, De la Salle University**

Panties! Don't need bras that much [because] my chest is as flat as an ironing board.—**Ria, 18, University of Santo Tomas**

Pictures of my family.—**Renelyn Tan, 20, University of the Philippines**

From personal computers to correction tape, here's a list of material possessions the young just cannot live without

My computer. I can't imagine not working with it, even for just a day.—**Arlene Sy, 19, AdMU**

My journal because I've been keeping it since I was 10. It's fun to read it once in a while.—**Chubs, 17, UP**

Correction tape.—**Carl Ng, 18, UP**

I find my Tag Heuer Kirium watch priceless. For a long time, I saved part of my allowance just to have the performance watch in time for Christmas last year. I have to say that in this case, I did not depend on mom and dad in getting what I really wanted.—**Joshua, 19, AdMU**

All my pictures of my family and friends.—**Sarah, 19, UP**

I guess I would consider the pictures and letters from very good friends priceless, because they can never be bought or reproduced.—**Marshmallowman, 24, University of Santo Tomas**

Nothing really because I am slowly learning to live [detached] from material stuff.—**Ponch Mante, 18, UP**

My computer.—**Suzy, UP; and Eilu, 18, UST**

Basic necessities I guess, but then if those are not included, nothing *na kasi* all things devalue *eh*. But then if you still insist, money because we can get all things with money.—**Fen Yu Chang, 17, Immaculate Conception Academy**

I guess my cell phone, but I don't love it that much.—**Nice, 18, AdMU**

[My] PC, but I don't love it that much [either].—**Anton, 18 ADMU**

My first laptop.—**Eugene Lao, 17, UST**

VCD player.—**Melanie Mylene Go, 17, UP**

A memorabilia probably. Something which has a sentimental value—that's priceless. No matter how much money I have, it can't be replaced because the memories attached to it can never be brought back.—**Grace Saria, 19, AdMU**

My crystal rosary from Prague because my dad bought it and had it blessed there.—**Funkylove, 18, UP Diliman**

Food.—**Angeline Odelia Concepcion, 18, UP**

My pillow. I've had it since I was a baby and I get a lot of comfort when I hug it.—**Chiara, 18, AdMU**

Success is about what *money* can't *buy*

By Matthew Yngson
2bU! Correspondent

Not everything has a price

FIRST let us define the meaning of price. Price is the value of something. If you follow theories, this simply means everything has a price. Or even everyone for that matter. So if everything has a price, how can you say it is priceless then?

We all have our own definitions of what is priceless, but generally, it is something we cannot buy. The cost or value of something priceless cannot be expressed in monetary terms.

How much do you think is the value of a couple's smile on learning that, after years of trying, they will finally be blessed with a child? Or how much is the happiness of a street kid, receiving a sandwich for breakfast, lunch and dinner, worth? And how much do you think is it worth to a son or daughter to hear of parents' death in a car crash?

Priceless are the smiles of people. Priceless are their tears as well. You cannot measure the cost of the hurt that people suffer. There is no price you can give to happiness or sadness.

Priceless for me are the smiles of people I have helped. You cannot put any price on the joy and satisfaction both of you get. Priceless for me are the sorrows of people, who have suffered much and lived to tell about it. They are not only survivors but heroes with strength, courage and the will to succeed. How much is heroism worth these days? What is the price of successfully overcoming an obstacle?

Not everything has a price. Some things are priceless because their value cannot be quantified. Priceless is the feeling you get inside, whatever it may be or however you got it for it is something money can't buy. I have always believed success is not measured by how many cars you have, how many buildings or houses you own, or how many titles you have. What matters is how many people you have touched and blessed with your friendship, guidance and strength. When people you've met along the way remember you, that is priceless.

Those delicious, beautiful fishball days

AMONG the many things that are to me beyond price, some only cost just a few coins: fishballs.

I learned to like fishballs when I was in college and hanged around the lot beside the College of Mass Communications in UP Diliman.

On sunny afternoons whenever we had free time, Romy's fishball cart would be there and my friends and I would sit around on makeshift benches, talking and laughing away the hours until the sky went dark.

Time would fly as we would laugh at Kay's misadventures, listen to Sheryl's plans for Samaskom, our college organization, tolerate Chris' wit, plan a "gimmick" with Jason, borrow money from E.R., or check what's up with Abby.

Romy—who owned the fishball cart and who got to know all about our personal lives—would sometimes act as our message bulletin board and even go-between during courtships, as text messaging, remember, was not around yet during that time. It was also during fishball time when I sometimes would court Jowie, my future wife. My discussions with my friends—revolving around love, success, failure, who was now seeing who, life in general and who knows what else—became the bases of the strong friendship that still stands today.

Back then, P10 was sometimes all I could afford for fishballs; but that was worth more than the expensive meals that I am dining on now. Without the introspection that I learned between fishball sticks and *kikiam*, I know I probably would not have appreciated the real value of the many other things that came in my life later: the slightly rainy night in Tagaytay when my wife said "yes," the sight of her walking down the altar, the memory of my newborn baby opening his eyes when I first called his name, and the satisfaction of knowing that they are there waiting for me when I get home.

Dimpy Jazmines

Now a corporate writer, the author still goes to the "kanto" occasionally to eat fishballs.

Vote for your favorite hang-out

By Joey G. Alarilla
INQ7.net

THINK your favorite hang-out is the hottest gimmick spot in town?

Sure, you know lots of gimmick places, but you definitely have your own pick of *the* place to be. For some, Makati is still the coolest place for gimmicks, with Glorietta attracting *barkadas* in droves as they hang out, sip coffee and enjoy each other's company. Rockwell and the nightlife on Arnaiz Avenue, formerly Pasay Road, also boosted Makati's stock.

For a place that was practically nowhere on the gimmick map, Libis has become a favorite haunt of teens and tweens almost overnight. For an area that once only boasted the Acropolis, Libis, particularly along C-5, is bursting with activity. Of course, Eastwood City, where an entertainment strip has sprung up, has a lot to do with the area's new vitality.

And while its flashier rivals might be winning the hearts (and pockets) of many young people, Manila still retains its old charms, particularly the nightlife of Malate. Nothing like a blend of the old and new worlds to spice up those gimmick nights.

With all the choices available, it's not hard to see that different people will have different ideas of the perfect gimmick place. If you know which gimmick spot really rocks, however, now is your chance to vote for your favorite place and share your opinion with the whole world online.

YOU, INQ7.net's interactive portal for the youth at http://you.inq7.net, is encouraging you to share what you think online and SMS (short message service)-based polls. INQ7 Interactive Inc. is the joint online and multimedia news and information delivery company of the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER Inc. and GMA Network Inc.

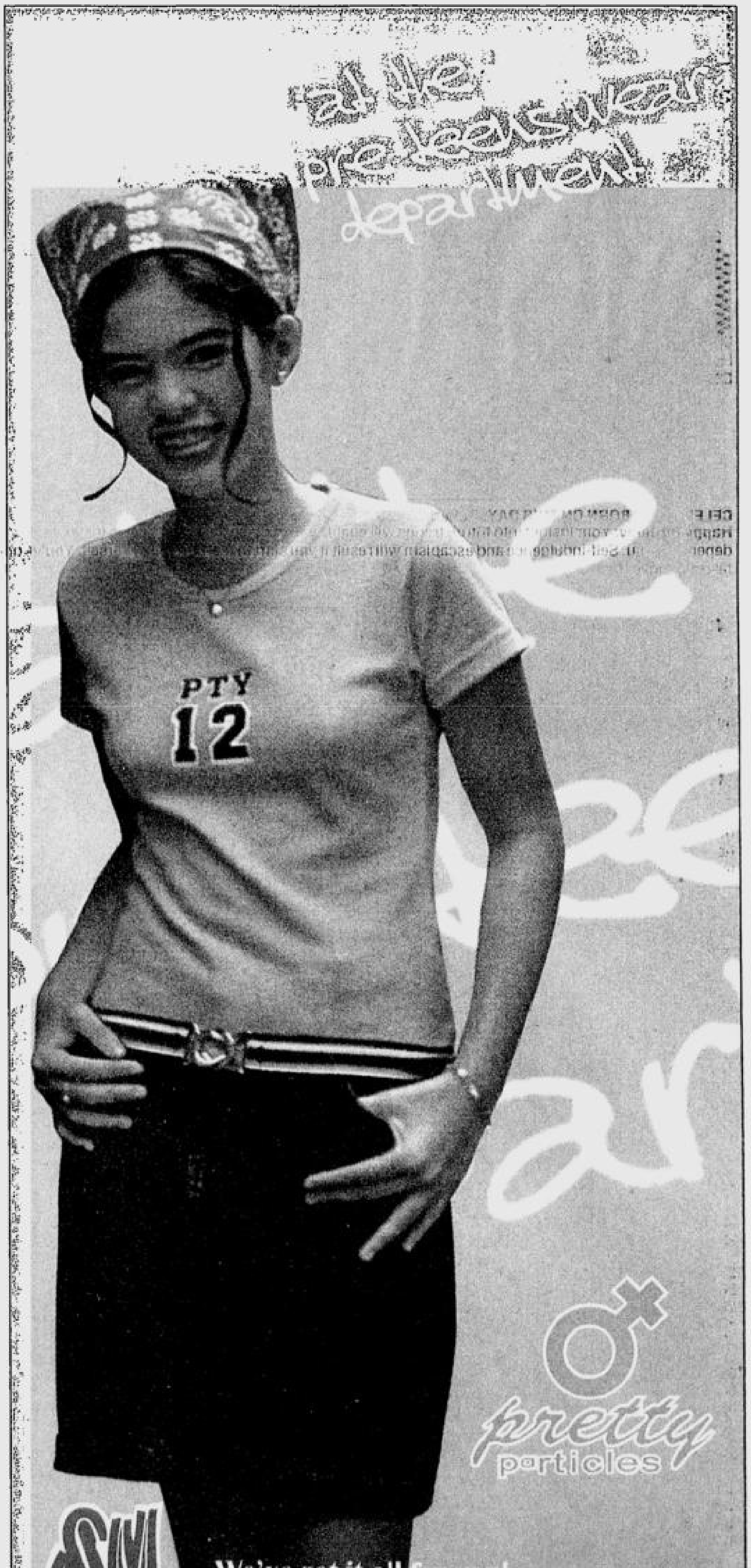
In the current 2bU! poll to determine the youth's favorite gimmick place, Makati is still outpacing rivals with 51.11 percent of the votes, followed by Libis with 37.78 percent and Manila with 11.11 percent. But don't worry—there's still time for you to vote for your favorite gimmick spot.

YOU, which had its soft launch on Nov. 26, is composed of three main sections: 2bU!, Cross-Campus and Junior INQUIRER. The 2bU! polls are being conducted in cooperation with the INQUIRER's 2bU! section. Think of it as an example of the synergy between print and the Internet, as the questions are printed in the INQUIRER's 2bU! and posted online in the YOU homepage. YOU's JI section also features its own poll in cooperation with the INQUIRER's Junior INQUIRER.

You can choose to answer the polls online or text your vote. It's as simple as keying in "YOU POLL 2BU" for 2bU! and "YOU POLL JI" for the Junior INQUIRER polls. Smart users can send to 211 while Globe users can send it to 2333. You can then check the results online by going back to the YOU site and clicking on the poll box.

Soon, YOU will also introduce an enhanced text-based service that will allow users to post messages directly to the site using their cell phones. Got an opinion or message you want to share? Just text to your heart's content and see it posted on the YOU site right away.

And speaking of gimmicks, don't forget to mark April 6, Saturday, on your calendars. Troop to the Glorietta Activity Center in Makati and enjoy the day-long celebration of YOU's formal launch. Be part of the action as loads of gimmicks, adventure and prizes await you.



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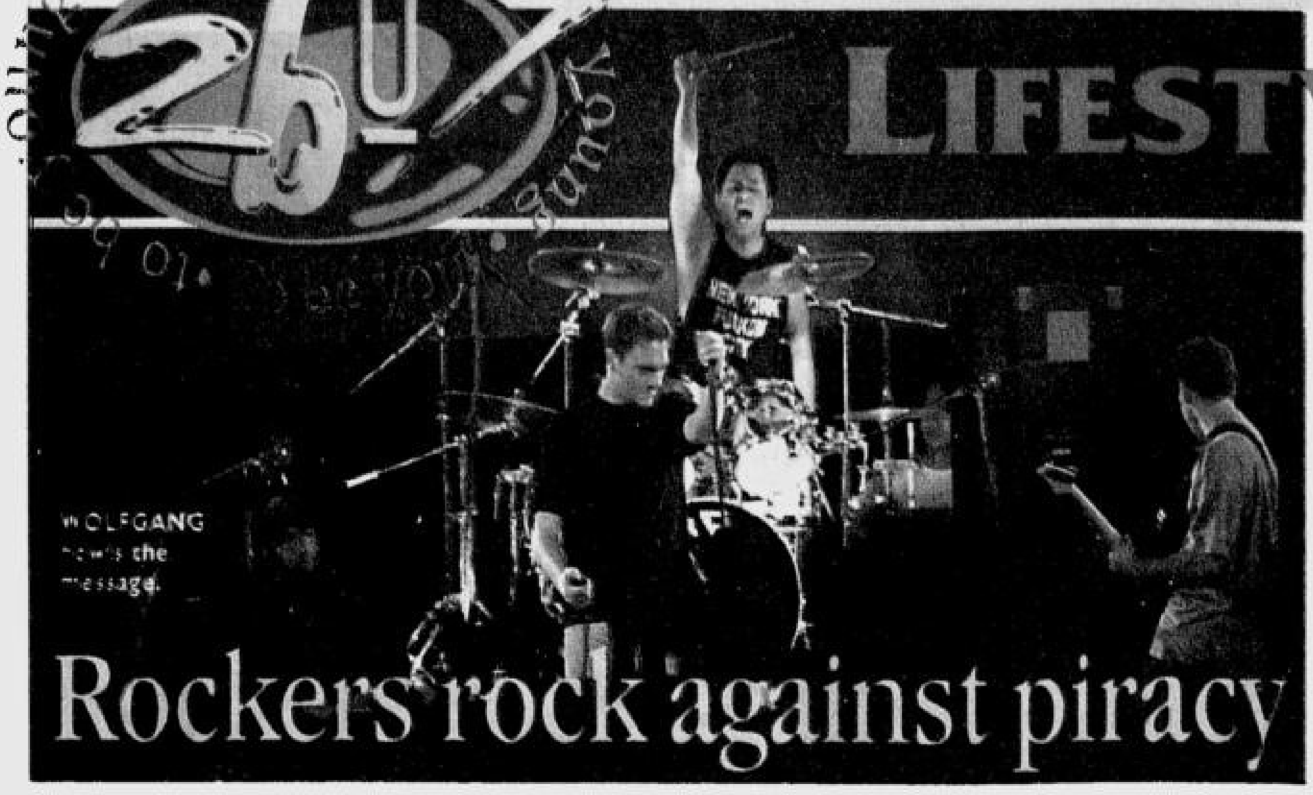

WOLFGANG howls the message.

Rockers rock against piracy

'This is one big scream!' proclaims Basti Artardi as rock bands gather to make a solid pitch against music pirates

CHITO of Parokya ni Edgar

By Cheryl Tiu
2bu! Correspondent

"*HUWAG kayong bumili ng* pirated *kasi masama 'yon!*" yelled the Philippines' most lovable bum, Tado of UNTV's "Strange Brew," as he led the crowd in the fight against piracy at the Baluarte de Dilao in Intramuros. March 9 saw the birth of "Rock Against Piracy," the country's first collective effort to battle music piracy. The historical Baluarte de Dilao, with all its weather-beaten brick walls and historic war scars, had the Pinoy music fans, mostly coming from the university belt, raising their fists and banging their heads (and

ROCKERS/ p.E4

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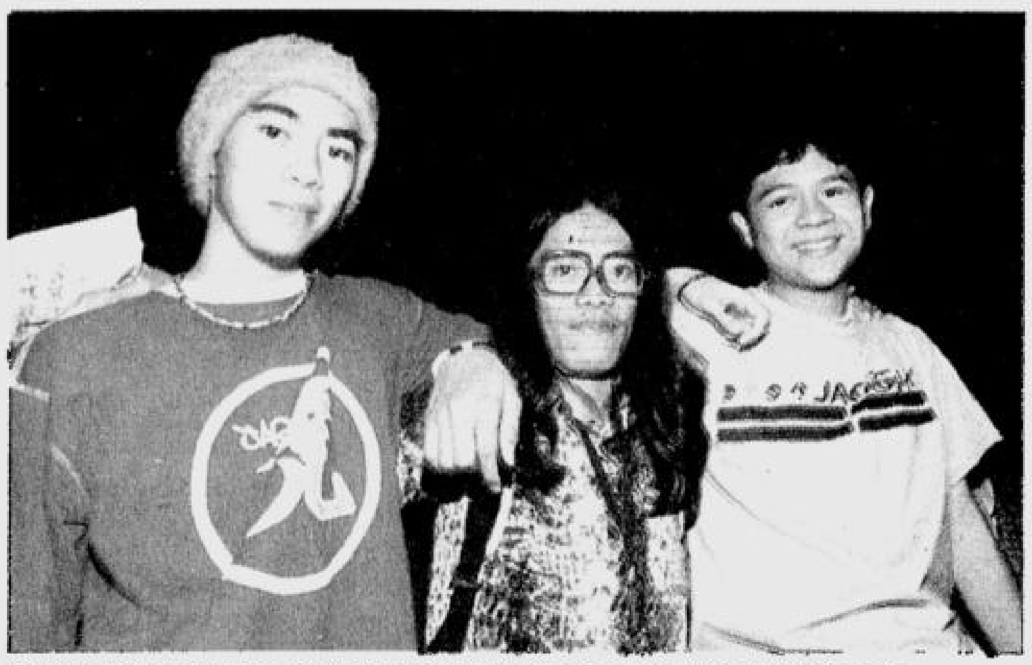

"ONE big fight!" Ateneo High School seniors Paolo and Rayfab sandwich Tado.

Fashionable pitch against piracy

By Cheryl Tiu and Tammy David
2bU! Correspondents

SO you thought that piracy only hurt the entertainment business? Well, think again. Even clothes get pirated. Take a plain shirt, steal a logo and sell it at a slightly cheaper price. Even if you manage to buy original-looking Prada bags and Nike Prestos, the money you *think* you were able to save went to waste with the time you spent inspecting for loose threads and uneven cuts and prints.

2bU! gathers some hardcore Pinoy rock fans, whom we dressed up in authentic Lee and Jag apparel, and invited them to support their favorite bands. They stood out in their original clothing while head-banging with the crowd against piracy. Indeed, it was a night worth fighting for.

The fans

Pamela Gonzales, 18

Favorite local band/s: P.O.T.

On piracy: "It's not fair because profit isn't given to whom it's due."

Miguel Goquinco, 18

Favorite local band/s: Rivermaya or Parokya ni Edgar

On piracy: "I think it sucks because the profit doesn't go to the bands, and their hard work just goes to waste."

Raymond Fabul, 17

Favorite local band/s: Happy Meals, Sugar Free, Twisted Halo, Dicta License

On piracy: "It's a huge problem in the music industry because our artists' time and hard work are put to waste. They are not getting the money they deserve. Because of this, talented new bands are no longer given the opportunity to get record deals. Companies are lacking money to support them."

ATENEO de Manila High School senior Paolo, 18, wears a red T-shirt with Chinese character and dark gray cargo shorts, both by Jag.

Paolo Yambao, 18

Favorite local band/s: Chicosci and Dicta License

On piracy: "Piracy destroys the industry."

Jamie Koa, 17

Favorite local band: Parokya ni Edgar (I've been a fan since the seventh grade!)

On piracy: "I really never liked pirated stuff. Besides not being compatible with my player, low quality sucks!"

Gretchen Fullido, 17

Favorite local bands: Parokya ni Edgar, Freestyle, Side A, Cheese, Wolfgang and Greyhoundz.

On piracy: "I think piracy should not be patronized because the artists will suffer and it's illegal. To help our economy, we should support our own products the legal way."

PHOTOS BY: JIM PUNZALAN
STYLED BY: TAMMY DAVID AND CHERYL TIU
THANKS TO: KRISTINE SAY OF LEE JEANS, LIZZA NAKPIL AND MIC FLORENDO OF SYNTAX, PIA SUABILLO OF SONY MUSIC AND WOLF GEMORA
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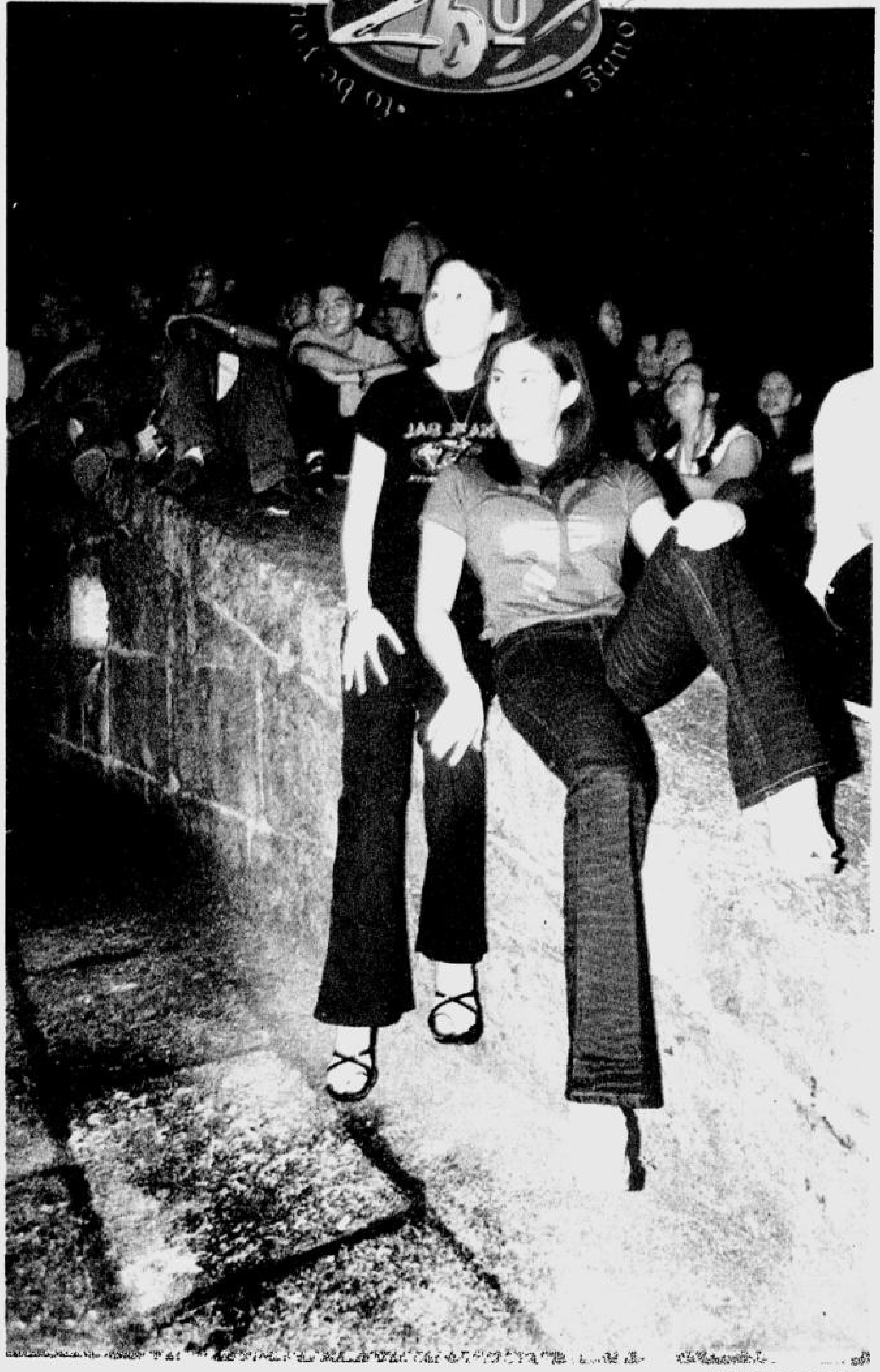
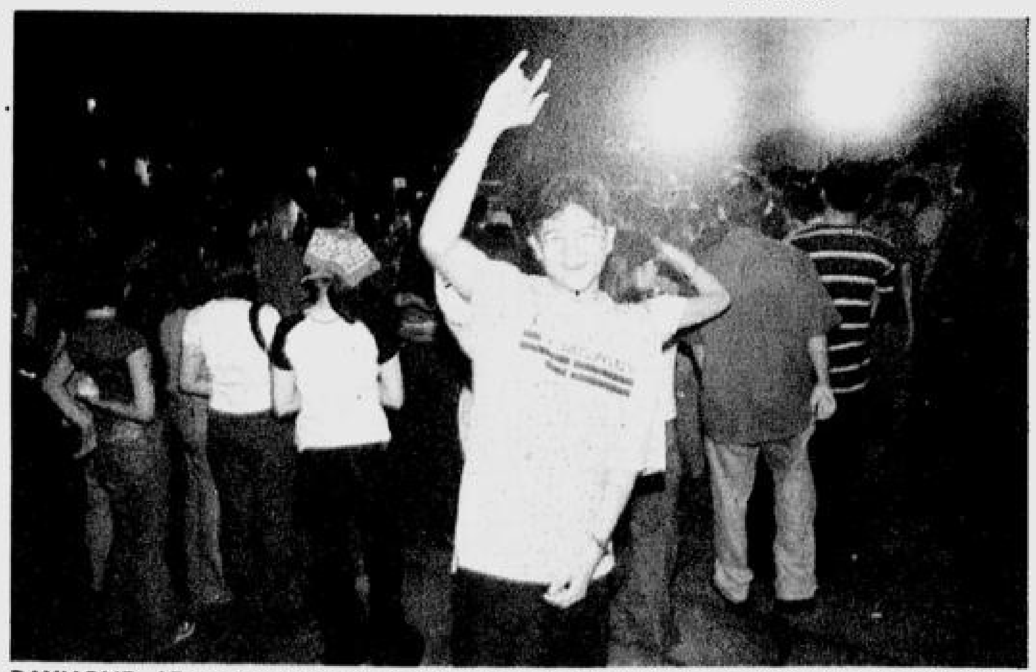
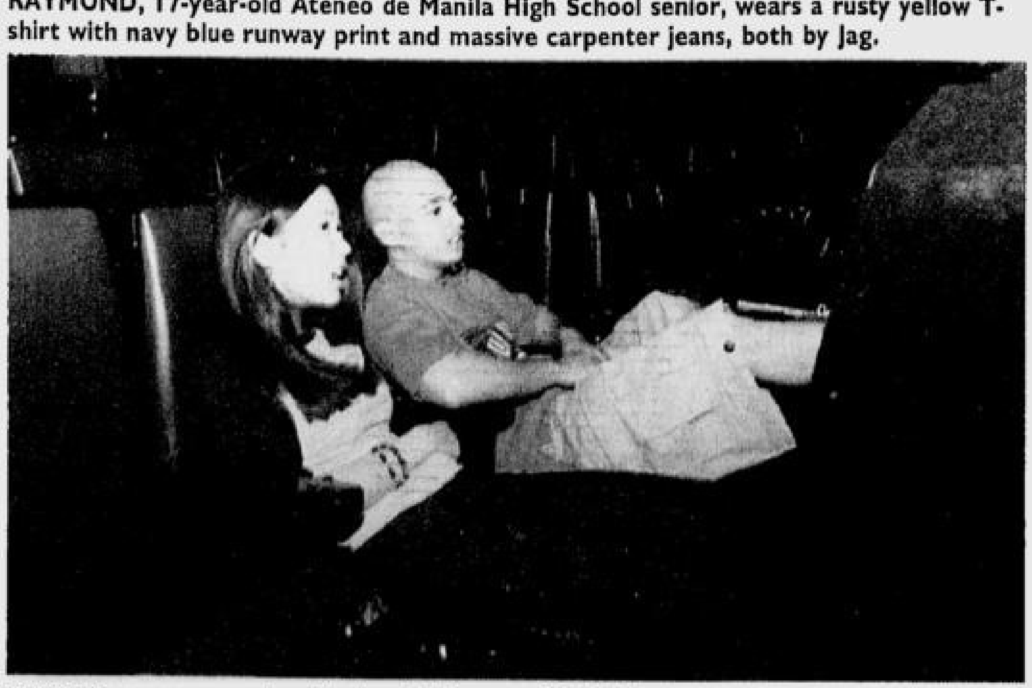


PAROKYA ni Edgar fanatic Jamie Koa, 17, wears a black baby tee with silver and green glittery front and black cotton flares, both by Jag.
Gretchen Fullido, a swimmer and an incoming UP Diliman student, dons a blue baby tee with red butterfly print and black jean flares with dark blue silhouette stripes, both by Jag.

ATENEO freshman and guitarist Pamela Gonzales, 18, wears a gray baby tee and stonewashed blue flared jeans, both by Lee.
Coke model and Ateneo de Manila freshman Migs Goquinco sports blue/yellow baseball hot rod T-shirt and khaki cargo shorts, both by Lee.

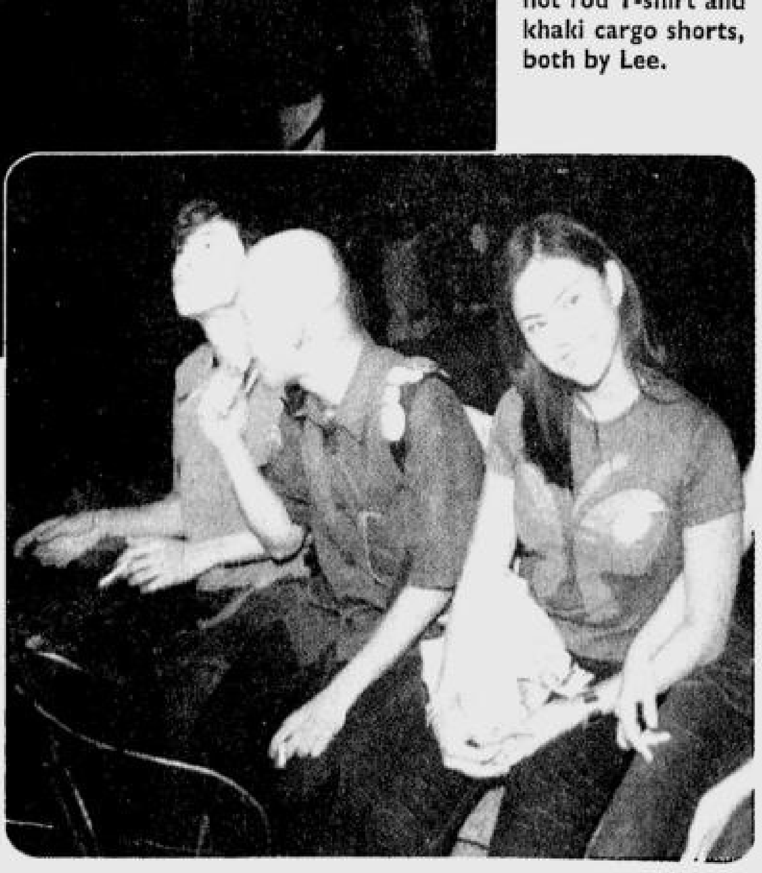


RAYMOND, 17-year-old Ateneo de Manila High School senior, wears a rusty yellow T-shirt with navy blue runway print and massive carpenter jeans, both by Jag.



PAMELA wears a navy/sunkist baseball tee and dark blue utility jeans, both by Lee. Migs wears red-orange T-shirt by Lee.

ERNING wannabe Jamie sticks to Tado.



GRETCHEN rubbing elbows with Reg Rubio

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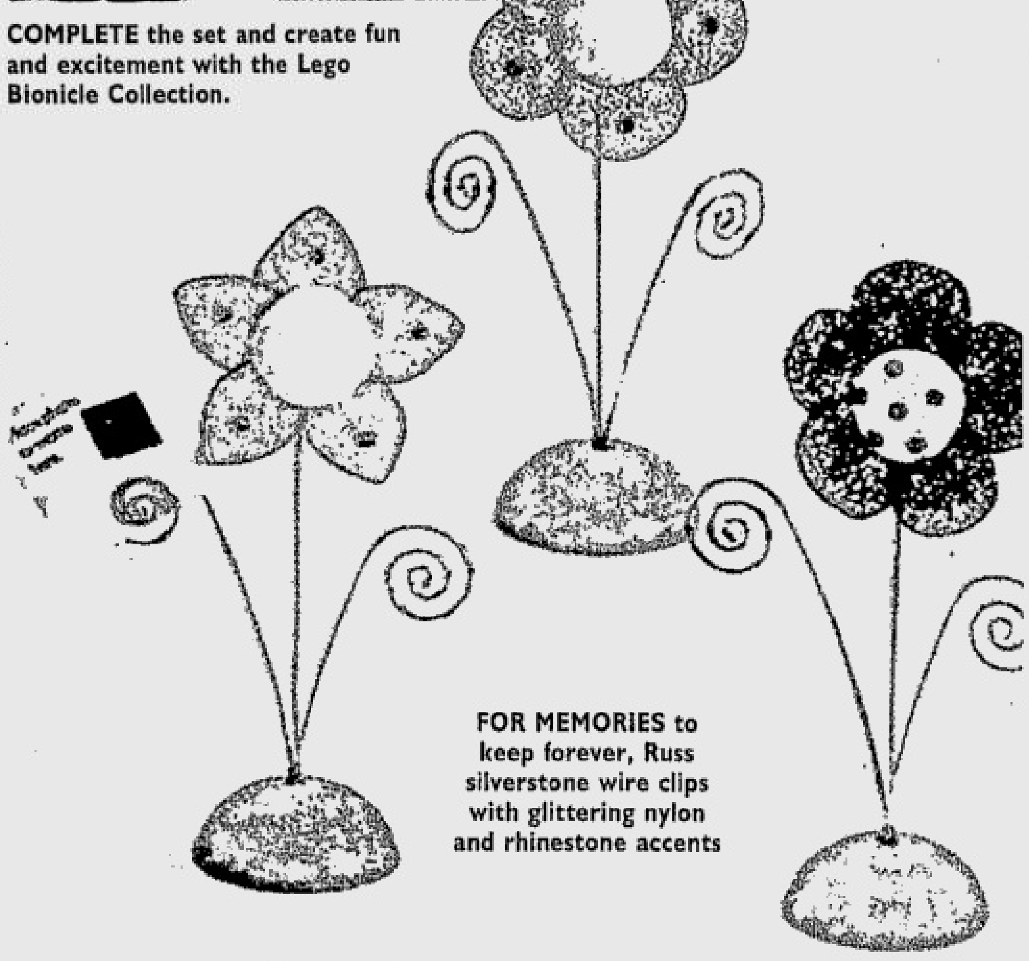

FOR MEMORIES to keep forever, Russ silverstone wire clips with glittering nylon and rhinestone accents

Fun gifts for the graduates

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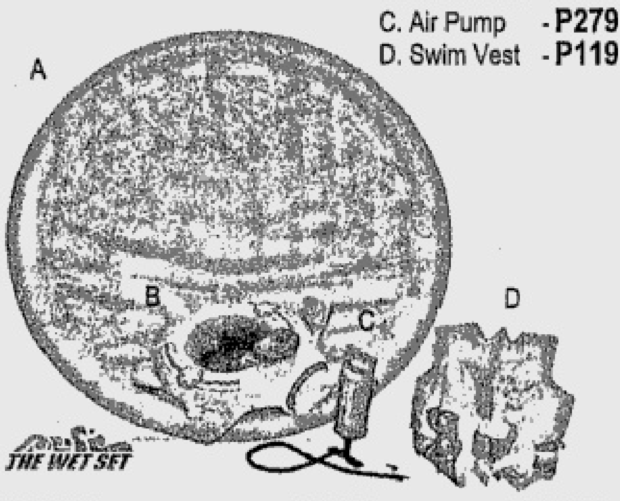

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Per DTI-NCR Permit No. 0528 Series of 2002

FIGHT against piracy in the Walled City

Rockers rock against piracy

From page E1

swaying along) to Moonstar 88, Wolfgang, Razorback, Parokya ni Edgar, Cheese, Greyhoundz and The Dawn. The open-air venue made for a lot of action and the walled field was instantly transformed into a moshpit, especially when Parokya ni Edgar performed "Buloy" and also when Cheese and Greyhoundz took center stage.

Awareness

"We're happy to be here for the reason that piracy will hopefully end," Buwi from Parokya ni Edgar said earlier before their performance, to which, fellow band mate Vinci added, "We're really glad to be on the awareness side —so [that the buyers would] know what to do."

And it was indeed about time that music buyers become aware of the multimillion theft being perpetrated against the music industry. "*Meron kaming* 'The Best of Greyhoundz' *tapos mali-mali 'yung* titles *at 'yung mga* pictures, *sobrang nakakatawa*, 11 *pa lang yata ako dun, eh!*" Greyhoundz's Reg Rubio exclaimed in amusement. These preposterous low-quality CD equivalents, mass-produced through high-speed duplicating machines by foreign nationals, misrepresent and ruin these artists; they ruin your CD players as well.

Rock at the Museum

At the opposite end of the city, Music Museum became the new Mecca as Pinoy rock music enthusiasts flocked to cheer on Sandwich, Imago, Itchyworms!, Chicosci, Sugar Free, Dicta License and, once again, Wolfgang. The smaller but air-conditioned venue had the fans enjoying the night—not crowd-surfing through a crazy moshpit—but instead, banging their heads and belting out the lyrics on their cushioned seats. The atmosphere had the makings of a revolution.

Just look at the faces of Wolfgang's Basti Artadi and Wolf Gemora as they sat backstage after their set, chugging down bottles of mineral water with towels draped across their shoulders. They were very, very tired, but there were glimmers of contentment in their eyes. "I was surprised that a lot of people were receptive to our complaint," Wolf said. "I was sort of expecting a lot of 'Yeah, rights.'"

It was no surprise he felt that way because when bands voiced out their concerns in the past, the reception was less than welcome. This was the first time the bands came together to voice out their concern collectively. As Basti put it, "This is one big scream." And that night was proof that it high-decibels scream had reached many, many ears.

Wolf, one of the masterminds of "Rock Against Piracy," said the campaign would escalate. "This is [just] going to be the start of a series. It's not going to stop until [piracy] at least diminishes."

E-mail the author at chloe_dominique@yahoo.com

THE 2BU!-C2 GRADUATION BLOWOUT

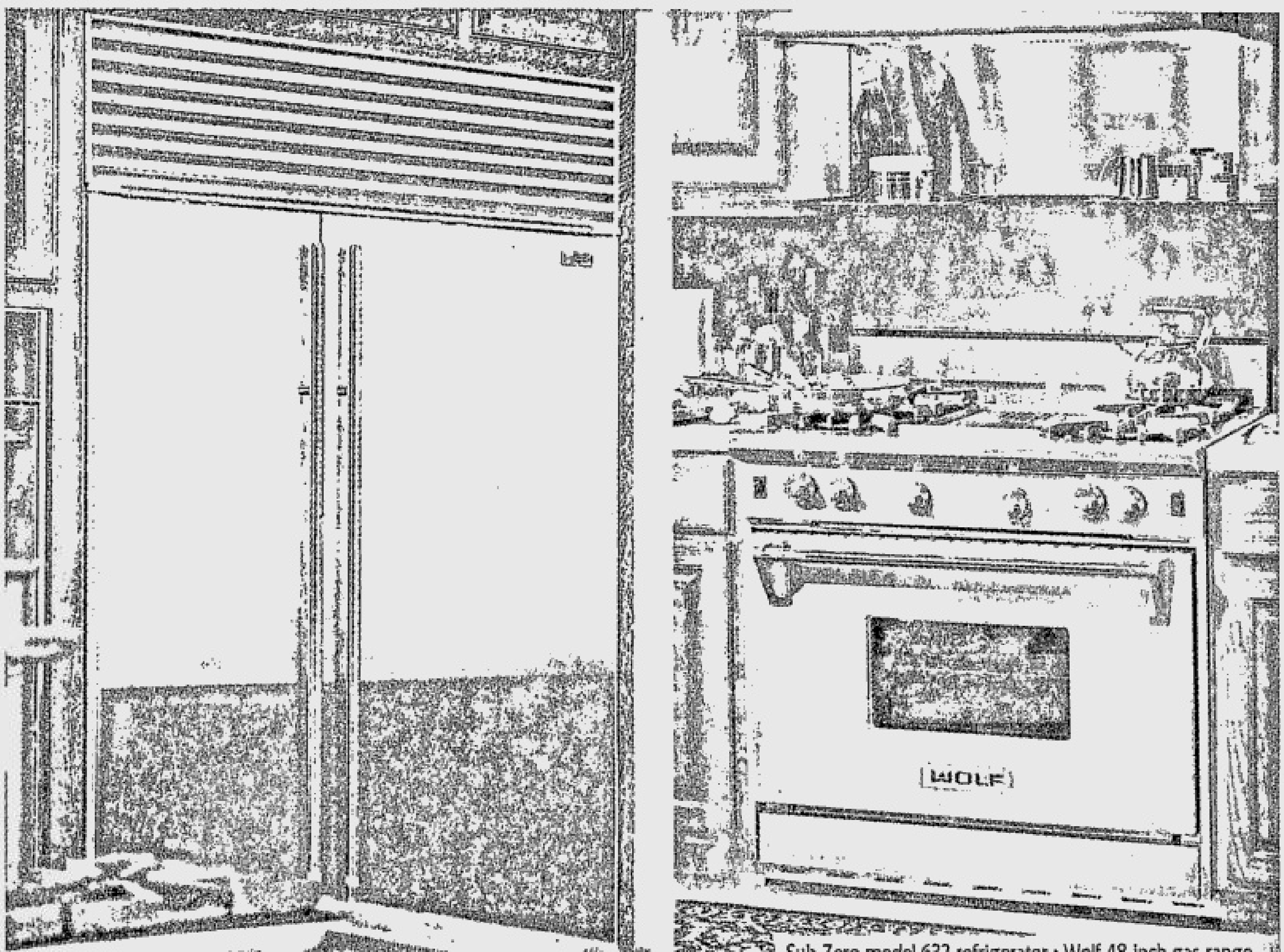
What will you do right after graduation?

CONGRATULATIONS, graduates! 2bU! makes your graduation even more special by giving away dinners for six at C2 restaurant. Ten lucky winners will be chosen. Ten runners-up will receive certificates for day courses on baking and cooking at the Center for Culinary Arts.

Send us a list of three things that you plan to do right after graduation along with your name, age, school, course and contact numbers. Don't forget to send us your graduation pic, too.

Entries may be sent to the PHILIPPINE DAILY INQUIRER, Chino Roces Avenue corner Yague and Mascardo Streets, Makati City. Or e-mail them to contest 2bu@inquirer.com.ph.

Deadline for submission is 12 nn on March 18.



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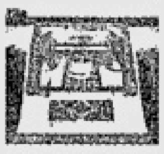

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Unruly Iloilo congressman kicked out of House

STORY ON PAGE A2

Malacañang boo-boo behind holiday snafu

By Carlito Pablo

IF YOU are quite confused about which day in the Holy Week has been declared a non-working day, and for whom, blame the eager beavers in Malacañang.

Copies of Proclamation No. 164 designating Holy Wednesday and Black Saturday (March 27 and 30) as non-

MALACAÑANG/A17

PHILIPPINE DAILY
INQUIRER
BALANCED NEWS, FEARLESS VIEWS

RP traders support threat to quit WTO

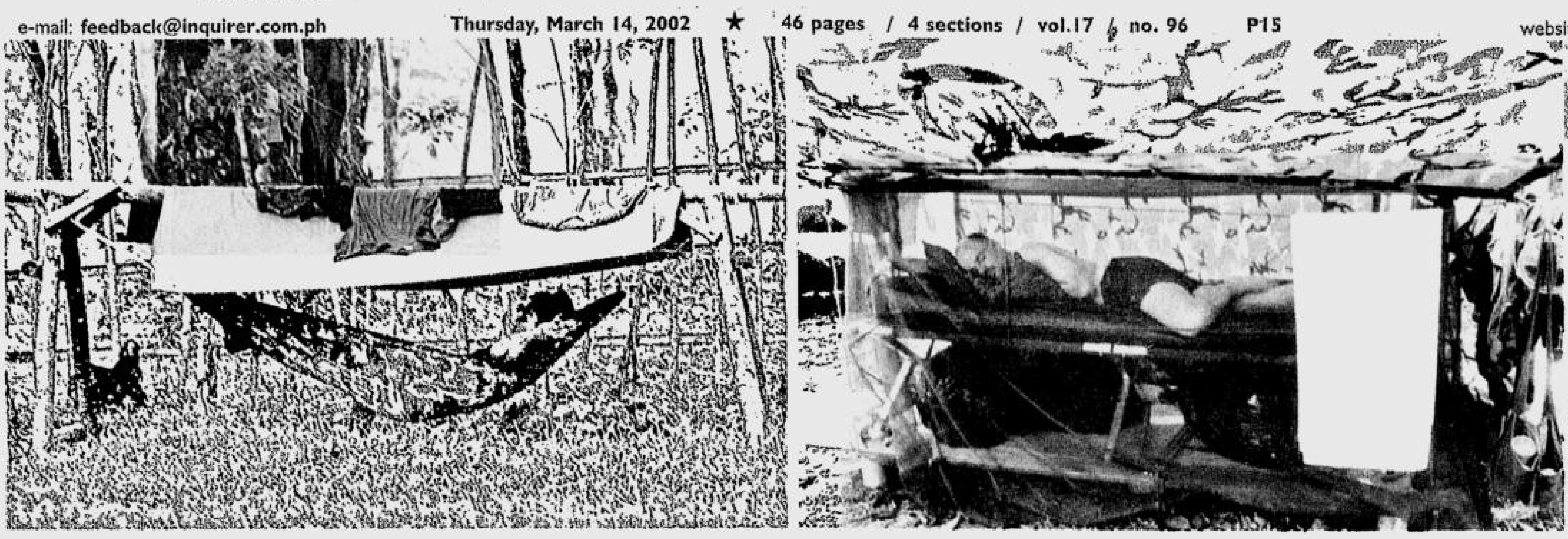
By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

"I'M speechless."

This was the reaction of European Chamber of Commerce of the Philippines president Claus Sudhoff to Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas' plan to review the Philippines' membership in the World Trade Organization over tariff disputes involving the country's

RP/A17

e-mail: feedback@inquirer.com.ph Thursday, March 14, 2002 ★ 46 pages / 4 sections / vol.17 no. 96 P15 website: www.inq7.net



ERNIE U. SARMIENTO

WORLDS APART Under the harshest conditions, an American soldier still can afford to sleep in comfort in a double-decked cushioned cot cocooned by a netting to ward off insects. To hit the sack, a hammock will do for a Filipino soldier protected by unidentified objects at a Marine camp in Isabela, Basilan.

Estrada to Davide: Quit

Ex-President lays down conditions to stand trial

By Volt Contreras, Philip C. Tubeza and Juliet L. Javellana

IT LOOKS like jailed former President Joseph Estrada is adopting a "two step forward-and one step back-strategy."

Estrada is now amenable to stand trial before the Sandiganbayan for plunder and other criminal charges after he declared that he had lost faith in the country's judicial system.

But he is laying down virtually impossible conditions.

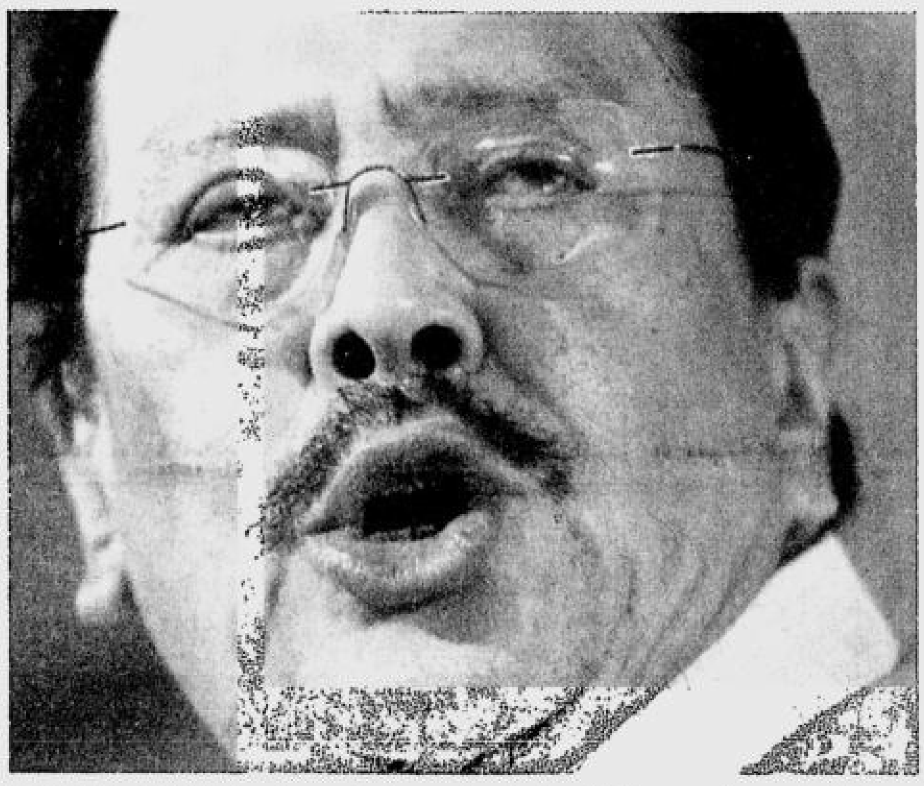
Among them is the resignation of Chief Justice Hilario Davide, and Associate Justices Artemio Panganiban and Antonio Carpio—whom he had accused of "coordinating" his downfall with Edsa II forces led by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and the "elite."

The day before, Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito Estrada, wife of the former President, said in a privileged speech that the Supreme Court had prejudged Estrada's cases.

Estrada is also demanding the abolition of the special court created especially for his four criminal cases, and the assignment of the cases to one of the five regular Sandiganbayan divisions.

While Estrada mouthed a blanket condemnation before of the country's justice system for being highly politicized, now he's making distinctions. "I still believe in our justice system, but not in the people currently running it," he told the INQUIRER in a phone interview yesterday.

ESTRADA/A16



ESTRADA: I still believe in our justice system but not in the people running it.

EDWIN BACASMAS/FILE PHOTO

Gov't set to preempt 'theatrics'

By Carlito Pablo and TJ Burgonio

IF necessary, Joseph Estrada will be taken by helicopter to the Sandiganbayan for tomorrow's resumption of his plunder trial, which was suspended for two weeks following his dismissal of his defense team.

A Malacañang official, who asked not to be named, said transporting Estrada by chopper from the Veterans Memorial Medical Center (VMMC) was one of the scenarios for which the government had prepared in the face of the reported plan of his supporters to stage "theatrics" on March 15.

The ousted President "may use crutches on account of his troubled knees and hope that such an image will gain him sympathy from the public," the source said.

"In this case, we can't prevent him from using crutches," the source said. "But we can offer him a government wheelchair if he wants one."

President Macapagal-Arroyo told re-

GOV'T/A16

SC justices decline to comment

By Michael Lim Ubac and Juliet L. Javellana

FORMER President Joseph Estrada's call for Chief Justice Hilario G. Davide Jr. and Associate Justices Artemio Panganiban and Antonio Carpio to resign fell on deaf ears.

As usual, Davide and the associate justices refused to be embroiled in a word war with the deposed leader by making themselves unavailable for comment.

Davide flew to Japan yesterday to attend a legal convention, while the other high court justices refused to take interviews.

Even the court-appointed spokesperson, Deputy Court Administrator Ismael Khan, was out. His staff said he had to go to the United States to escort his daughter.

With no one willing to face the media yesterday, Justice Secretary Hernando Perez was forced to defend the judiciary.

Perez said Estrada's call for the resignation of Davide, Panganiban and Carpio was unfounded.

Perez said Davide and Panganiban, upon the motion of Estrada lawyer Rene Saguisag, had inhibited them

SC JUSTICES/A16

FILE PHOTO/DENNIS SABANGAN

NOW, Erap needs a French lawyer to defend himself against damage suit by Stephane Loisy and Sonia Wendling.

2 French hostages sue Estrada

By Christine Herrera

TWO French nationals—former Abu Sayyaf hostages during the infamous Sipadan incident—sued deposed President Joseph Estrada before the Court of Nantes in France the other day for allegedly endangering their lives after they were kidnapped on April 23, 2000.

Stephane Loisy and girlfriend Sonia Wendling claimed Estrada used the Philippine military "to violently intervene on numerous occasions (during the crisis), thereby endangering the lives of the hostages despite his country's international commitments from the Convention Against Hostage-Taking in New York on Dec. 17, 1979, and the existence of the risks of reprisals run by the hostages."

According to their lawyer Etienne Rosenthal, Loisy and Wendling also sued the Federal State of Sabah, Malaysia, the travel agency Ultramarina-

2 FRENCH/A16

US sponsors UN resolution endorsing Palestinian state by historic 14-0 vote

UNITED NATIONS—At the end of one of the bloodiest days in the Middle East in the last 18 months, the UN Security Council adopted a resolution endorsing a Palestinian state for the first time.

The resolution, which also called for an immediate ceasefire in the escalating Israeli-Palestinian conflict, was sponsored by the United States, Israel's closest ally.

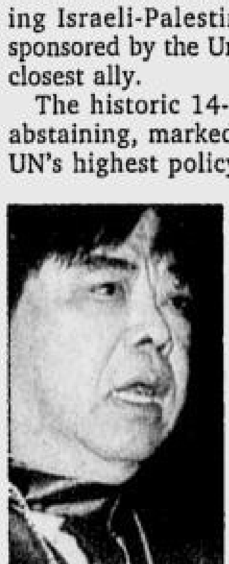
The historic 14-0 vote, with Syria abstaining, marked the first time the UN's highest policy-making body approved a resolution on the Middle East since October 2000, when the second Palestinian "intifadah" or uprising broke out. It was also the first text in recent memory touching on the troubled region to be written by the United States.

Tuesday's vote fell on a day that Israeli forces killed 31 Palestinians in their biggest offensive in the West Bank and Gaza since Israel captured the territories in the 1967 war.

Earlier in the day, UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan made his strongest statement to date on the crisis, now estimated to have claimed 1,513 lives, including 1,168 Palestinians and 339 Israelis. Annan noted that more than 180 Palestinians and well over 50 Israelis had died in the past 10 days alone.

"The situation is the worst in 10 years," he said. "Escalation has been met with escalation with little—in some cases no—regard for innocent ci-

US SPEARHEADS/A17



TAN YU: Lived classic rag-to-billions story.

Billionaire Tan Yu dies in US; 75

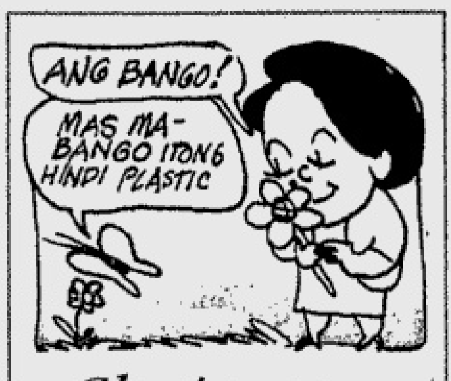
BY THE TIME Tan Yu, who did not own a pair of shoes until he was 10 years old, died at 75 in Houston, Texas, on March 12, 2002, he had become a billionaire with a net worth estimated at P50 billion.

Until the Asian financial crisis hit in 1997, he had been the country's richest real estate entrepreneur. That year, Forbes magazine had listed him as one of the world's richest with a fortune estimated at $7.2 billion. With 20,000 hectares to his name, Tan Yu was, after the government, the country's largest landowner in 1996. In 2000, he was down to $1 billion in the Forbes listing of billionaires.

"Our late father struggled all his life and worked very hard. He used to tell us that he felt like riding the back of a tiger, so even though he had passed on responsibilities to us his children, he never really retired from working every day. Work was his passion, it was his life," daughter Elena Tan Yu Coyiuto of Asiaworld Philippines said in a press statement.

Coyiuto said the family hopes to continue the two legacies of her father. "First, is to rebuild the momentum we had lost as a business group during the Asian financial crisis, a situation which had taken its toll on my father's health. Our father had always been confi-

BILLIONAIRE/A17



ANG BANGO!
MAS MA-BANGO ITONG HINDI PLASTIC

Gloria now stops to smell the flowers

By Dona Pazzibugan

SHE'S more relaxed despite her usual heavy workload. More time to visit with the poor, to smell the flowers and play badminton. Less stress.

Is it because President Macapagal-Arroyo, by her own admission, has quit reading the broadsheets Tribune and Malaya which are often very critical of her administration?

The President revealed her relaxed state yesterday at lunch with a group of Palace reporters.

She said she found herself able to relax more by spending more time with her constituencies.

"I guess because I have more time to smell the flowers, then I'm less driven and therefore I'm less tense," she said.

She often goes to bed early, something she was not able to do

GLORIA/A17

HINDI PARA KAY GRAP!

Death penalty law splits House

By Christine Avendaño

FOUR congressmen yesterday came up with a counter-resolution in response to a Senate resolution calling for the abolition of the death penalty.

The resolution, filed by the members of the so-called "Spice Boys," sought the full implementation of capital punishment.

The House now stands divided on the issue, as a number of congressmen have supported the initiative taken by the 15 senators who filed a bill for the repeal of the Death Penalty Law.

Among those for the repeal of the law are Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Representatives Oscar Moreno, Loretta Rosales, Krisel Lagman-Luistro and Ronaldo Zamora.

Moreno said he did not believe that the Senate initiative was made in order to bail out jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada who is charged with the capital offense of plunder.

Sense of the House

The group led by Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, however, has filed a House resolution "expressing the sense of the House for the full implementation of the law on the death penalty to deter crime."

The resolution was supported by other "Spice Boys"—Representatives Robert Ace Barbers, Rolando Andaya and Federico Sandoval Jr.

Barbers said that his group believes that the death penalty was a deterrent to crime and that its implementation "would give an impression to perpetrators that the government was serious in curbing crime."

He said the executive branch should allow the law's implementation, noting that since its approval in December 1993, only two convicts have been put to death for their crimes.

Barbers said they may yet be able to get the signatures of other colleagues who are for the death penalty.

Pending bill

Zamora, a member of the 18-member minority, said he and some colleagues have been talking of reviving the issue of abolishing the Death Penalty Law although there has been as yet no move to file a bill similar to the Senate bill.

A House resolution may not be necessary at all as there is a bill pending at the House committees on civil, political and human rights and revision of laws for the repeal of the Death Penalty Law.

Rosales, chair of the committee on civil, political and human rights, said the committees have been conducting hearings on the issue and the "drift and consensus was for its abolition."

She said the breakthrough came when the proponents of four bills advocating for the imposition of the death penalty for crimes against women and children agreed to imposing only life imprisonment as the maximum penalty for offenders, Rosales said.

'Rehabilitative'

"The committees are to meet for one last meeting after the Lenten break," she said in an interview.

Rosales said that she supports the initiative of the senators because the Death Penalty Law has not become a deterrent to crime. She said she was for a "justice system that is rehabilitative and restorative."

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said that "even if a person is convicted 1,000 times with the death penalty if we do not improve our justice system or the enforcement of our laws, this would never be a deterrent."

Lagman-Luistros, who has filed a bill for the abolition of the death penalty, reiterated that she was for the repeal of the law because it was "retributive not rehabilitative justice and anti-poor, among others."

It was anti-poor because a study of the socio-economic background of 1,010 death convicts last year showed that 937, or 93.7 percent, come from the poor and marginalized sector of society, she said in a statement.

Bill to scrap 'death' not meant to benefit Erap, senators say

By Cynthia D. Balana
Armand N. Nocum
and Jerome Aning

SENATORS seeking the repeal of the Death Penalty Law yesterday denied the bill they filed was meant to benefit jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada who is being tried for the capital offense of plunder.

Church leaders, led by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, threw their support behind the senators' move, saying they did not see it as an attempt to save Estrada's neck.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the principal author of the bill, said the accusation made by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption chairman Dante Jimenez was "unfair and preposterous."

"We initiated this bill long before any charge was conceived to be filed against Mr. Estrada," said Pimentel, adding that he had been asking for the abolition of the Death Penalty Law long before Estrada was impeached and charged with plunder.

'Ridiculous'

He found it "ridiculous" that the bill was being linked to Estrada as "this issue has been in the open for so long."

"It has always been debated since the beginning of Congress," he said.

He said that many of the 16 senators who signed the bill as co-sponsors had supported Estrada's impeachment.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto, who co-authored the bill, chided critics for reading too much into the pro-life measure.

He said he agreed to co-author the bill because he believed that the Death Penalty Law has failed as an effective crime deterrent.

"The certainty of arrest and conviction is a better deterrent to the commission of crimes than the threat of being executed," he said.

In separate statements, Sin and Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said they wanted criminals punished but not put to death.

"I support wholeheartedly the move to abolish the death penalty. I am very happy to join our senators in this humanitarian step for the sake of our men and women in death row," said Sin, one of Estrada's strongest critics.

'No deterrent'

Sin said: "The death penalty law is not a deterrent to crime. If we want to prevent crime, we must restore the confidence of our people in the peace and order personnel."

Quevedo said the Church leaders' stand was consistent with Church teachings.

"The Bishops' Conference proclaims Church teaching, in season or out of season," he said. "It is the bishops' duty to speak the truth regardless of particular events or political developments."

Quevedo said the bishops believe that "justice (should) be given due course, but without resorting to capital punishment."

The CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care (ECPPC) expressed a similar view, saying justice ranks high in the "hierarchy of values" of the Catholic Church.

ECPPC Executive Secretary Rodolfo S. Diamante said they support the repeal of the death penalty "despite the political color that advocates of the death penalty give to this welcome move."

"The stance against the imposition of the death penalty is in no way a posture to let social offenders go scot-free," he said.

The Coalition Against Death Penalty (CADP) under Fr. Silvino L. Borres Jr. said they believe that "the true deterrent to crime is not capital punishment but the certitude of arrest, prosecution and conviction of the criminals."***With reports from TJ Burgonio, Metro Manila and Ma. Kristina E. Cassion and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Unruly Iloilo solon kicked out of House

By Christine Avendaño

THE HOUSE leadership threw out last night from the session floor Iloilo Rep. Augusto Boboy Syjuco after declaring him "out of order."

Syjuco was escorted out by sergeant-at-arms Bayani Fabic, armed with the mace, at around 7:20 p.m. upon the orders of Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez.

He was declared out of order because he was causing delay, Majority Floor Leader Neptali Gonzales said.

Syjuco was ejected from the floor after Gonzalez acted on the motion of Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco to declare the Iloilo congressman out of order.

This stemmed from Syjuco's continued protests to the rulings made by Gonzalez that resulted from a privilege speech he had delivered.

On the motion of Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, the House voted to strike out from the records the privilege speech delivered by Syjuco.

Titled "Night of the Macho Dancers," Syjuco's speech questioned the House's approval the other night on second reading the Special Purpose Asset Vehicles Act.

Syjuco argued that only about 30 congressmen voted to approve the bill and that this violated the Constitution.

Before this ruling, the House also voted to strike out the "unparliamentary" words that Syjuco used in his speech.

Gonzales said that Syjuco took up two hours of the time of the House, which is rushing to pass three priority measures before Congress takes its break today.

"His moves are dilatory in character when he knows we are pressed for time," Gonzales said.

Gonzales said because of the incident last night, the House is expected to wrap up interpellations, amendments and even voting on second reading the Securitization Act, the Absentee Voting Bill and the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Barbers said it was the fourth time Syjuco had caused a delay in the House proceedings. The previous ones involved the budget bill, the anti money laundering bill and the impeachment complaint against ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Barbers said Syjuco could also be subjected to an inquiry by the House ethics committee.

Syjuco assailed the House leadership for violating his rights as the elected representative of Iloilo's second district.

"They may not agree with what I say but I have the right to say it. We must not be muzzled, forced like sheep," Syjuco said outside of the session hall.

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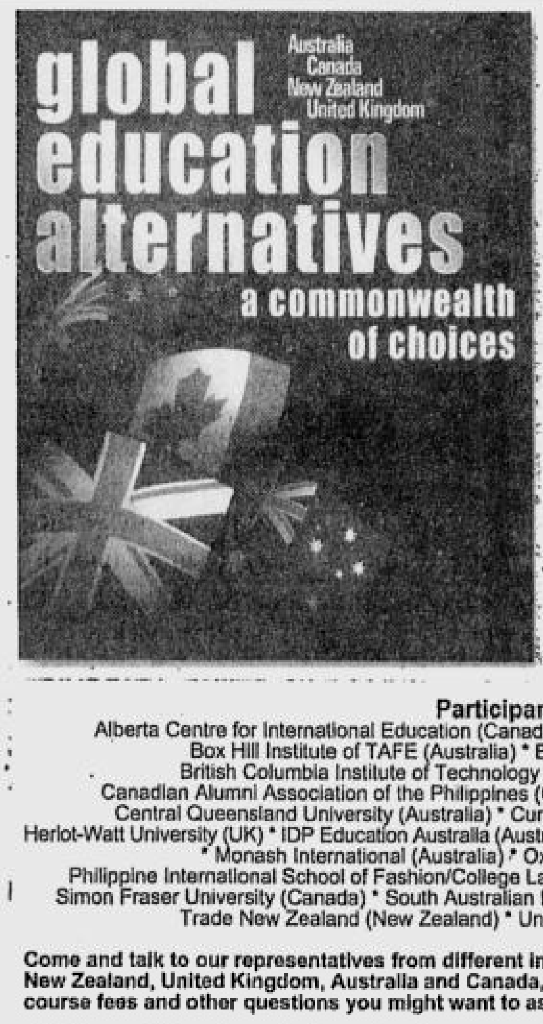

Event Schedule
Open Information:
Grand Ballroom
Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City
15 March 2002 – 11:00AM – 9:00PM
16 March 2002 – 9:00AM – 4:00PM

Seminar Series:
Bel-Air & North Forbes Function Room
Hotel Inter-Continental, Makati City

15 March 2002
1400 – 1450 Understanding British Education
1500 – 1550 Study in Canada
1600 – 1650 The New World Class. Educated In New Zealand
1700 – 1750 Experiencing Australian Education
1800 – 1850 Canadian Alumni Association
1900 – 1950 Student's Life: UK

16 March 2002
0930 – 1120 Australian Institutions
1130 – 1350 Canadian Institutions
1400 – 1455 UK Institutions
1500 – 1655 New Zealand Institutions

Participants
Alberta Centre for International Education (Canada) * Bond International College (Canada)
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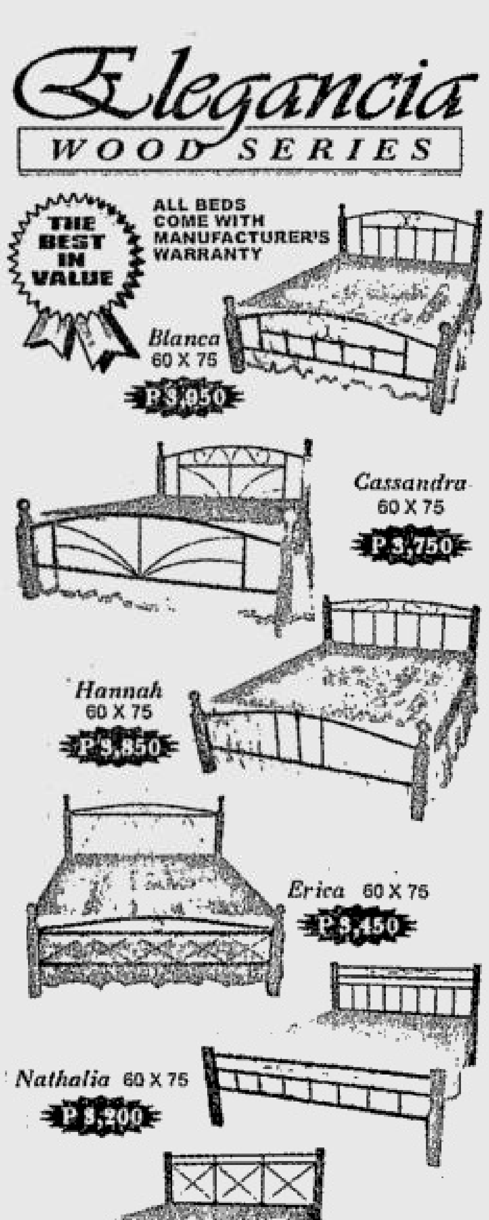

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HINDI PARA KAY ERAP!

Death penalty law splits House

By Christine Avendaño

FOUR congressmen yesterday came up with a counter-resolution in response to a Senate resolution calling for the abolition of the death penalty.

The resolution, filed by the members of the so-called "Spice Boys," sought the full implementation of capital punishment.

The House now stands divided on the issue, as a number of congressmen have supported the initiative taken by the 15 senators who filed a bill for the repeal of the Death Penalty Law.

Among those for the repeal of the law are Minority Leader Carlos Padilla, Representatives Oscar Moreno, Loretta Rosales, Krisel Lagman-Luistro and Ronaldo Zamora.

Moreno said he did not believe that the Senate initiative was made in order to bail out jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada who is charged with the capital offense of plunder.

Sense of the House

The group led by Bukidnon Rep. Juan Miguel Zubiri, however, has filed a House resolution "expressing the sense of the House for the full implementation of the law on the death penalty to deter crime."

The resolution was supported by other "Spice Boys"—Representatives Robert Ace Barbers, Rolando Andaya and Federico Sandoval Jr.

Barbers said that his group believes that the death penalty was a deterrent to crime and that its implementation "would give an impression to perpetrators that the government was serious in curbing crime."

He said the executive branch should allow the law's implementation, noting that since its approval in December 1993, only two convicts have been put to death for their crimes.

Barbers said they may yet be able to get the signatures of other colleagues who are for the death penalty.

Pending bill

Zamora, a member of the 18-member minority, said he and some colleagues have been talking of reviving the issue of abolishing the Death Penalty Law although there has been as yet no move to file a bill similar to the Senate bill.

A House resolution may not be necessary at all as there is a bill pending at the House committees on civil, political and human rights and revision of laws for the repeal of the Death Penalty Law.

Rosales, chair of the committee on civil, political and human rights, said the committees have been conducting hearings on the issue and the "drift and consensus was for its abolition."

She said the breakthrough came when the proponents of four bills advocating for the imposition of the death penalty for crimes against women and children agreed to imposing only life imprisonment as the maximum penalty for offenders, Rosales said.

'Rehabilitative'

"The committees are to meet for one last meeting after the Lenten break," she said in an interview.

Rosales said that she supports the initiative of the senators because the Death Penalty Law has not become a deterrent to crime. She said she was for a "justice system that is rehabilitative and restorative."

House Minority Leader Carlos Padilla said that "even if a person is convicted 1,000 times with the death penalty if we do not improve our justice system or the enforcement of our laws, this would never be a deterrent."

Lagman-Luistros, who has filed a bill for the abolition of the death penalty, reiterated that she was for the repeal of the law because it was "retributive not rehabilitative justice and anti-poor, among others."

It was anti-poor because a study of the socio-economic background of 1,010 death convicts last year showed that 937, or 93.7 percent, come from the poor and marginalized sector of society, she said in a statement.

Bill to scrap 'death' not meant to benefit Erap, senators say

By Cynthia D. Balana
Armand N. Nocum
and Jerome Aning

SENATORS seeking the repeal of the Death Penalty Law yesterday denied the bill they filed was meant to benefit jailed ex-President Joseph Estrada who is being tried for the capital offense of plunder.

Church leaders, led by Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin, threw their support behind the senators' move, saying they did not see it as an attempt to save Estrada's neck.

Senate Minority Leader Aquilino Pimentel Jr., the principal author of the bill, said the accusation made by the Volunteers Against Crime and Corruption chairman Dante Jimenez was "unfair and preposterous."

"We initiated this bill long before any charge was conceived to be filed against Mr. Estrada," said Pimentel, adding that he had been asking for the abolition of the Death Penalty Law long before Estrada was impeached and charged with plunder.

'Ridiculous'

He found it "ridiculous" that the bill was being linked to Estrada as "this issue has been in the open for so long."

"It has always been debated since the beginning of Congress," he said.

He said that many of the 16 senators who signed the bill as co-sponsors had supported Estrada's impeachment.

Administration Sen. Ralph Recto, who co-authored the bill, chided critics for reading too much into the pro-life measure.

He said he agreed to co-author the bill because he believed that the Death Penalty Law has failed as an effective crime deterrent.

"The certainty of arrest and conviction is a better deterrent to the commission of crimes than the threat of being executed," he said.

In separate statements, Sin and Archbishop Orlando Quevedo, president of the Catholic Bishops Conference of the Philippines, said they wanted criminals punished but not put to death.

"I support wholeheartedly the move to abolish the death penalty. I am very happy to join our senators in this humanitarian step for the sake of our men and women in death row," said Sin, one of Estrada's strongest critics.

'No deterrent'

Sin said: "The death penalty law is not a deterrent to crime. If we want to prevent crime, we must restore the confidence of our people in the peace and order personnel."

Quevedo said the Church leaders' stand was consistent with Church teachings.

"The Bishops' Conference proclaims Church teaching, in season or out of season," he said. "It is the bishops' duty to speak the truth regardless of particular events or political developments."

Quevedo said the bishops believe that "justice (should) be given due course, but without resorting to capital punishment."

The CBCP's Episcopal Commission on Prison Pastoral Care (ECPPC) expressed a similar view, saying justice ranks high in the "hierarchy of values" of the Catholic Church.

ECPPC Executive Secretary Rodolfo S. Diamante said they support the repeal of the death penalty "despite the political color that advocates of the death penalty give to this welcome move."

"The stance against the imposition of the death penalty is in no way a posture to let social offenders go scot-free," he said.

The Coalition Against Death Penalty (CADP) under Fr. Silvino L. Borres Jr. said they believe that "the true deterrent to crime is not capital punishment but the certitude of arrest, prosecution and conviction of the criminals."***With reports from TJ Burgonio, Metro Manila and Ma. Kristina E. Cassion and Allan A. Nawal, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

Unruly Iloilo solon kicked out of House

By Christine Avendaño

THE HOUSE leadership threw out last night from the session floor Iloilo Rep. Augusto Boboy Syjuco after declaring him "out of order."

Syjuco was escorted out by sergeant-at-arms Bayani Fabic, armed with the mace, at around 7:20 p.m. upon the orders of Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez.

He was declared out of order because he was causing delay, Majority Floor Leader Neptali Gonzales said.

Syjuco was ejected from the floor after Gonzalez acted on the motion of Cebu Rep. Antonio Cuenco to declare the Iloilo congressman out of order.

This stemmed from Syjuco's continued protests to the rulings made by Gonzalez that resulted from a privilege speech he had delivered.

On the motion of Surigao del Norte Rep. Robert Ace Barbers, the House voted to strike out from the records the privilege speech delivered by Syjuco.

Titled "Night of the Macho Dancers," Syjuco's speech questioned the House's approval the other night on second reading the Special Purpose Asset Vehicles Act.

Syjuco argued that only about 30 congressmen voted to approve the bill and that this violated the Constitution.

Before this ruling, the House also voted to strike out the "unparliamentary" words that Syjuco used in his speech.

Gonzales said that Syjuco took up two hours of the time of the House, which is rushing to pass three priority measures before Congress takes its break today.

"His moves are dilatory in character when he knows we are pressed for time," Gonzales said.

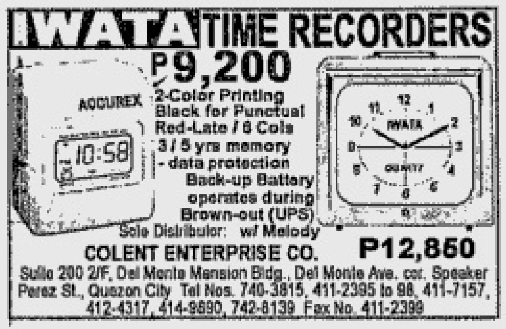
Gonzales said because of the incident last night, the House is expected to wrap up interpellations, amendments and even voting on second reading the Securitization Act, the Absentee Voting Bill and the Dangerous Drugs Act of 2002.

Barbers said it was the fourth time Syjuco had caused a delay in the House proceedings. The previous ones involved the budget bill, the anti money laundering bill and the impeachment complaint against ombudsman Aniano Desierto.

Barbers said Syjuco could also be subjected to an inquiry by the House ethics committee.

Syjuco assailed the House leadership for violating his rights as the elected representative of Iloilo's second district.

"They may not agree with what I say but I have the right to say it. We must not be muzzled, forced like sheep," Syjuco said outside of the session hall.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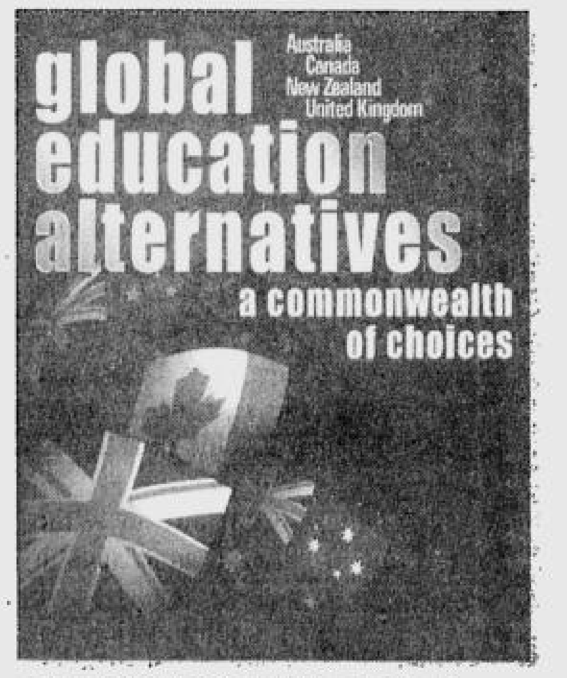

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16 March 2002 – 9:00AM – 4:00PM

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1800 – 1850 Canadian Alumni Association
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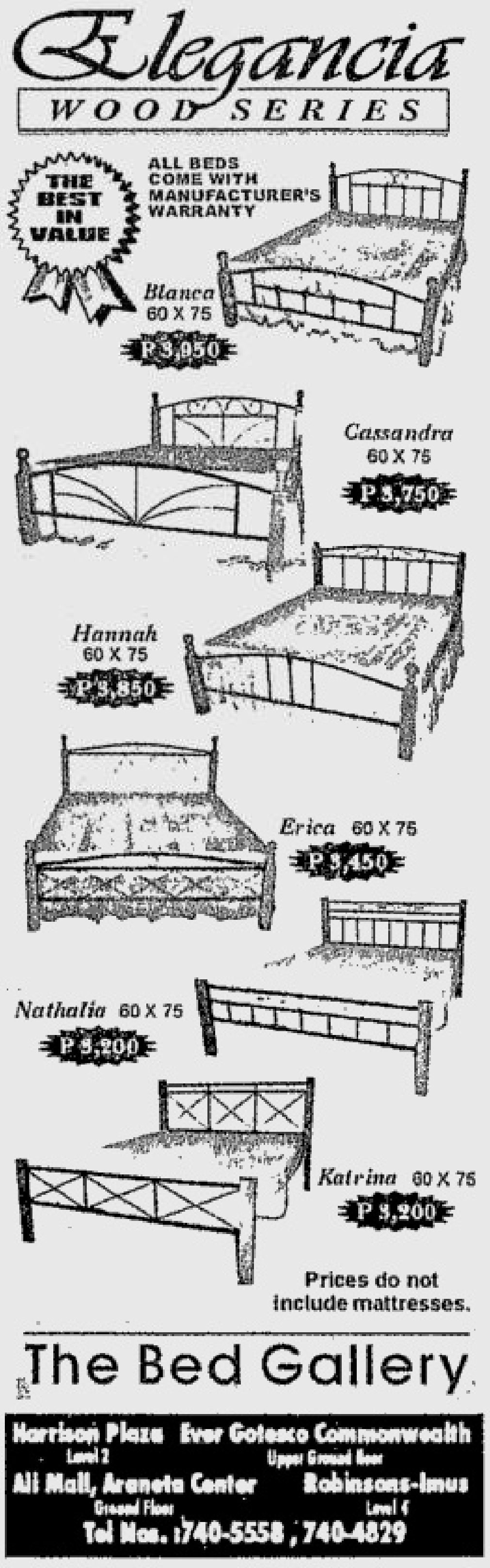
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Grenade explodes at Erap adviser's house

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Motorcycle assailants yesterday hurled a grenade at the residence of a former adviser of ousted President Joseph Estrada, causing minor damage and no injuries.

Wee Dee Ping, a prominent businessman, was not at home at the time, said his wife, Fely.

Shrapnel dented the large iron gate and damaged a car inside the compound.

Roy Jaylo, one of Wee's aides, said he was inside the compound when the motorcycle pulled to a stop outside the gates. The explosion occurred moments later.

"I checked to see if I was hit before I went out," he said.

"There was still smoke and I saw two men speeding away on a motorcycle."

No one has claimed responsibility for the attack.

Soldiers immediately established roadblocks on a road leading to Wee's house, checking belongings of motorists and commuters.

Wee, who rose from rags to riches, lost the race for mayor of this city last year.

AFP/AP

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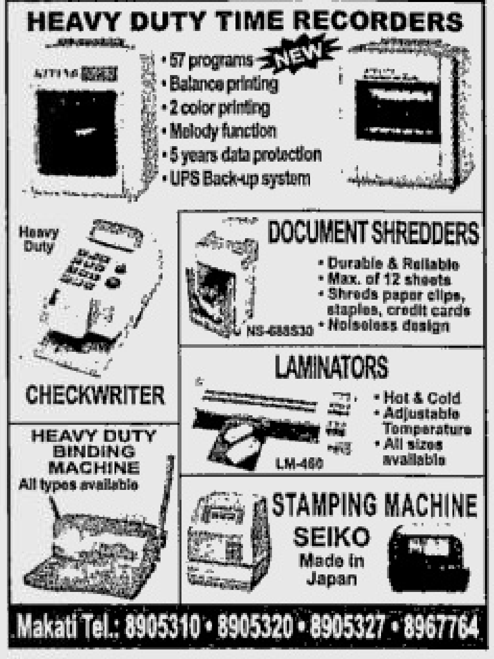

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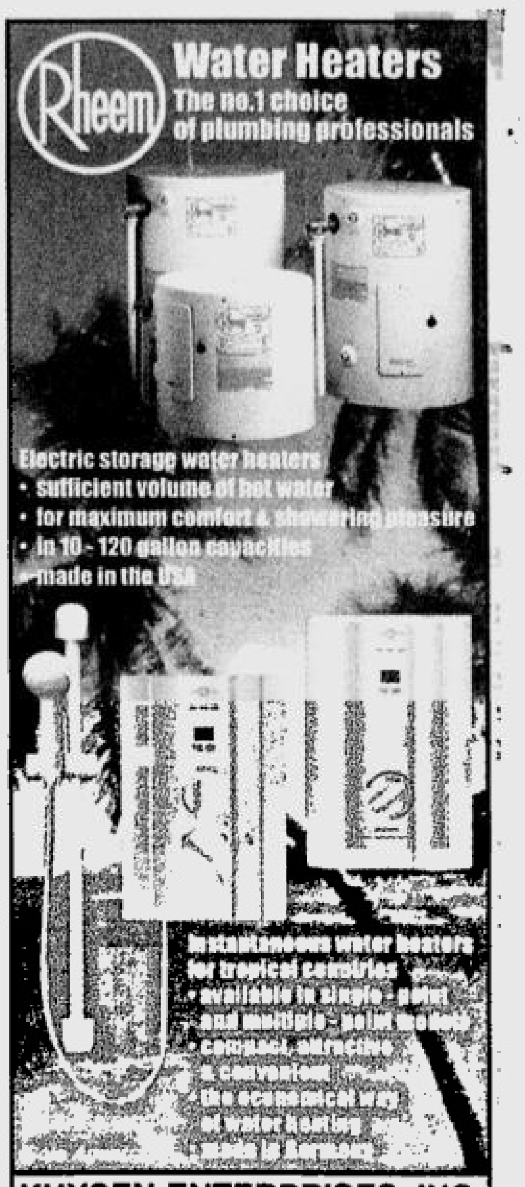
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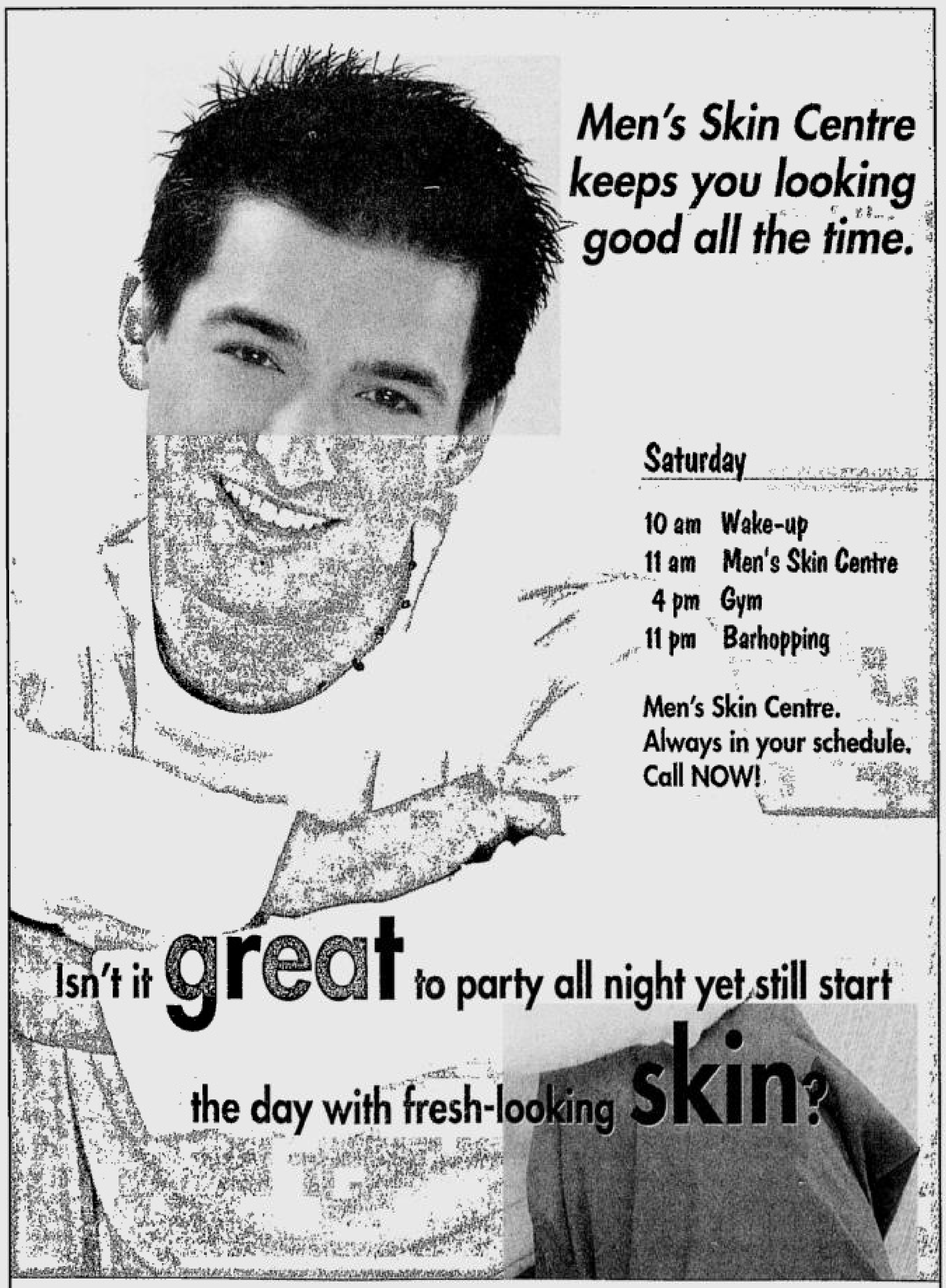

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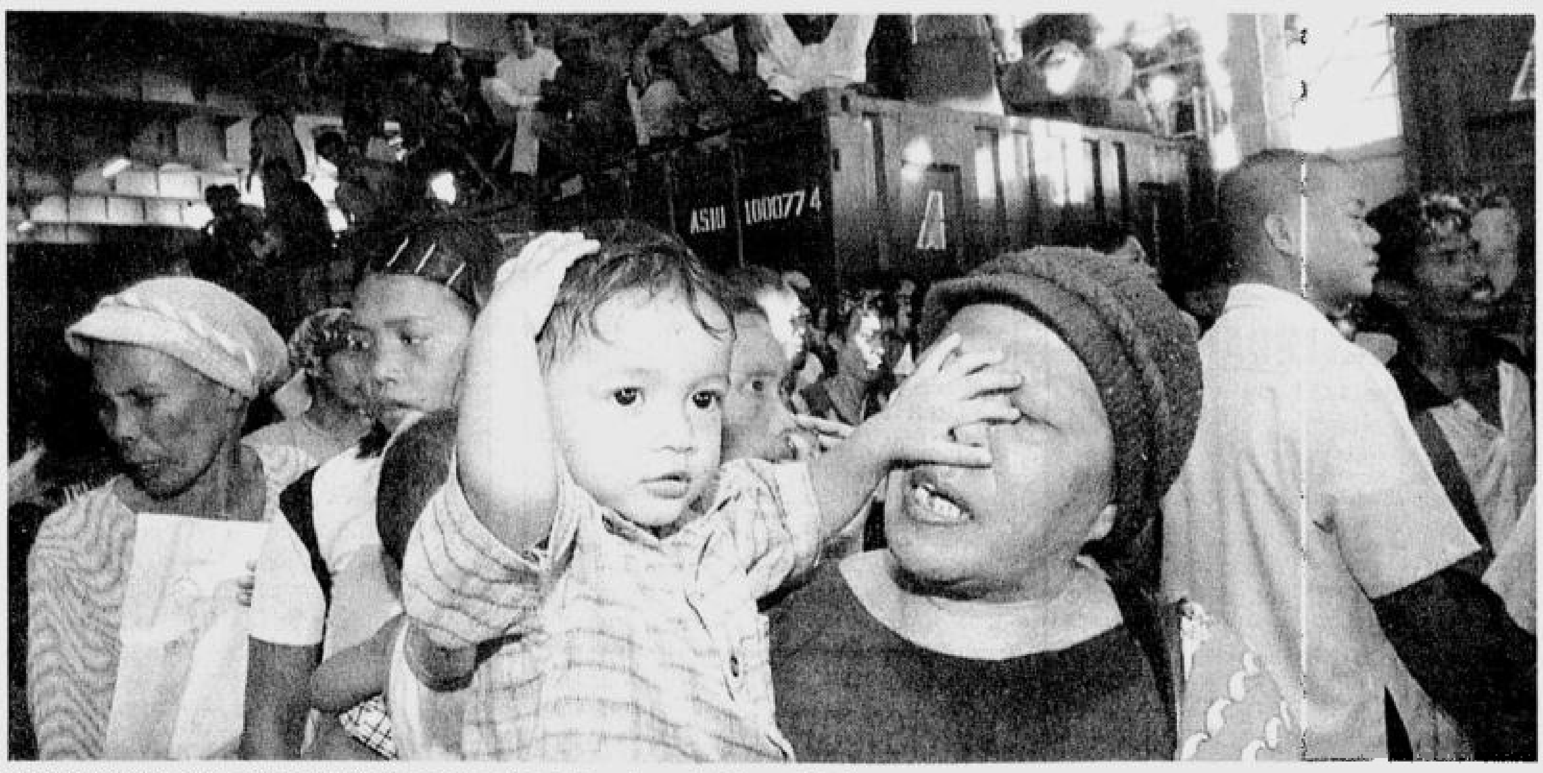

FILIPINO "illegals" arrive in Zamboanga after being deported from Sabah. ERNIE SARMIENTO

More Filipino illegals deported from Sabah

KOTA KINABALU, Malaysia—Another 1,147 Filipinos have been deported from Sabah state as Malaysia cracks the whip on illegal immigrants, taking the number sent home this year to more than 7,000, officials said Wednesday.

The 723 men and 424 women were put on two ferries late Tuesday bound for Zamboanga City from Sandakan town, said Bustami Yahaya, deputy director of the federal Special Task Force.

The move took the number of illegal immigrants deported from Sabah this year to 7,351, comprising 4,322 Filipinos, 2,930 Indonesians and 99 other nationals, Bustami said.

"We are trying to expedite their repatriation so we can free up space at the camps for new illegals who are caught and also to ease our financial burden," he said.

"The presence of immigrants is threatening the livelihood of the people here. In certain areas, locals are afraid to go out at night. We hope to nip this problem once and for all."

Sabah, on Borneo island, launched its biggest crackdown in decades on Feb. 26 to weed out illegal immigrants blamed for a growth in crime and other social problems.

A total of 3,706 illegals being held at detention camps in the state would be sent home within the next few days, with some 500 Filipinos leaving on Thursday, Bustami said.

In the past two weeks, gun-toting security personnel have bulldozed hundreds of immigrant colonies throughout the state and demolished thousands of rickety wooden houses built on stilts in shallow waters.

But many Filipinos claim to have acquired Malaysian citizenship and feel they are being treated as second-class citizens in their adoptive home.

"Where can we go? We have no money... the government should be humane toward our plight and at least give us a roof over our head," said Ahmad Abdullah, a 59-year-old Muslim fisherman.

Dozens of families left behind on Gaya Island, the largest immigrant settlement in the state capital of Kota Kinabalu, are in desperate straits.

Their water village lies almost in ruins as hundreds of illegal squatter homes—an eyesore compared to the modern high rises across the bay from the state capital—have been torn down.

Abdullah, who moved to Sabah from Zamboanga almost 30 years ago, said he would stay put in his shabby hut with his seven children and 11 grandchildren.

"I have a Malaysian identity card and have voted in several elections. I am a Sabahan but I feel like a second-class citizen."

Boatman Mohamad Shariff Omar, 50, who has refugee status, appealed for government help to resettle his family of six.

"My house has been demolished and my four children have stopped schooling. I am just crying from the heart for all this injustice," he said.

Sabah's close proximity to the southern Philippines and demand for cheap labor have made it a popular destination for Filipinos seeking to escape hardship at home.

The state aims to repatriate 30,000 illegals this year, up from 27,757 sent home last year.

Bustami said there was an estimated 100,000-150,000 illegals among some 600,000 immigrants in the state.

To detect Filipinos seeking to re-enter the state, he said those deported would be fingerprinted and their photographs taken for easy identification. *AFP*

Palace steps into Comelec dispute

By Dona Z. Pazzibugan and Blanche S. Rivera

MALACAÑANG has decided to intervene in the infighting that has been hampering Commission on Elections operations for so long.

President Macapagal-Arroyo wants to sit down with the four Comelec commissioners who were appointed by her predecessor to ask them to reconcile with her three appointees, including Chair Alfredo Benipayo Jr.

"I think it's not wrong anymore if I try to dialogue with them since... they accepted (the invitation of) Congress to a dialogue," Ms Macapagal told Palace reporters yesterday.

"I have asked my appointments secretary to look for a dinner date," she added.

The appointees of ousted President Joseph Estrada are Commissioners Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain, Rufino Javier and Luzviminda Tancangco.

The President said she had not wanted to intervene because the Comelec is an independent body.

But, "to me the bottom line is how we could conduct the July (barangay) elections (in an) orderly (manner). That's going to be my criterion.

"So from that point of view, I will try to dialogue with the four commissioners. Because the three (others) were my appointees, I think we understand each other quite well," she said.

Ms Macapagal hinted, however, that she might withdraw her appointment of Benipayo if this would quiet things at the Comelec.

Benipayo and Commissioners Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuason, Ms Macapagal's appointees, have not been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

Senate President Franklin Drilon had asked the President to withdraw her appointments after CA members failed to reconcile the warring factions.

Asked if she would stick by Benipayo, the President said, "Maybe, maybe."

Then she added: "Actually, nobody's indispensable. There are always those who are qualified. But let's see whether we can still (resolve this)."

Hope for reconciliation by the warring factions dimmed yesterday, however, after Benipayo accused the four commissioners and a well-funded consortium of waging a smear campaign against him.

Breaking the "moratorium" on public bickering reached during a meeting with members of Congress on Monday, Benipayo blamed Tancangco, Lantion, Sadain and Javier and the Photokina Marketing Corp. for the "very vicious, defamatory and malicious" allegations about his reported extramarital affairs.

"This has reached a new level of viciousness," a visibly disturbed Benipayo said of his fight with his colleagues.

"This is a very desperate attempt to destroy me. It reflects the character of the people who are doing this," he said in a press conference yesterday.

He branded as "very unfair, irresponsible and absolutely false" reports that he had impregnated a former student of his, who later became a Manila councilor, and that he had an affair with a subordinate in the Supreme Court when he was its administrator.

Benipayo, whose appointment has been bypassed by the CA several times, said he would have kept quiet in adherence to the "reconciliation process" initiated by Congress, but he could not let stand the latest allegations made about his morality and integrity.

Also denying that he had become rich in government, Benipayo said the P12 million increase in his assets over the last three years came from real properties inherited by his wife. ***With Rocky Nazareno***

Too early to tell if war games spurred business

DAVAO CITY—Trade and Industry Secretary Manuel Roxas said it was too early to say whether the presence of United States troops had spurred economic activity in Mindanao.

He said that as far as could be seen, foreign and domestic tourists were still hesitant to locate their businesses in Mindanao.

"They are still (taking) a wait-and-see attitude, that's why there must be a quick and complete resolution to this (peace and order problem)," he said.

Roxas, who visited the city to launch the DTI's "Murang Gamot" program, said those who have expressed an interest in investing here had already done so even before the joint US-Philippine Balikatan exercises started in February.

Roxas said the investors came because of lower interest rates, improved infrastructure, emphasis on agriculture, a better environment for investors, the relative stability of the peso and the lowered T-bill rates.

He said the 660 US troops had only recently come to the country.

Roxas said the Balikatan exercises could be said to have had an impact on the stock market which posted an increase of from less than 1,000 to 1,400 points.

The Texas-based Strategic Forecasting (Stratfor) had predicted before the start of the exercises that military cooperation with Washington would bring economic benefits to the Philippines in terms of financial assistance.

According to reports, the United States has infused some $1.5 million into the Philippine economy through 49 Balikatan projects in Zamboanga City.

The projects—26 of which are ongoing and 23 completed—are located in the Southern Command Headquarters, Edwin Andrews Air Base, Camp General Enrile and the Naval Forces South headquarters.

Maj. Cynthia Teramae, the US Balikatan Forces spokesperson, said the projects that are under way include the construction of temporary barracks and multipurpose gyms for the troops and freshwater wells.

Warm weather structures in the tradition of the "bahay kubo" totaling 10 in all and costing P350,000 each, will also be completed in the four military installations in Zamboanga.

Two hundred new full-time workers were hired to help in the construction and transportation needs of the joint US and Filipino forces.

In some areas, US engineers will survey and assess existing infrastructure to see if there is a need for improving roads and helicopter landing zones. ***Joel B. Escovilla, PDI Mindanao Bureau***

DEFENSE Secretary Angelo Reyes with US Ambassador to the Philippines Francis Ricciardone during the latter's call at Camp Aguinaldo. VAL HANDUMON

FBI chief coming

By Martin P. Marfil

AMERICA'S chief spy catcher is coming—as part of the global war on terror.

US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said Federal Bureau of Investigation Director Robert Mueller is expected in the Philippines on Monday and will stay for a day.

Ricciardone, the new US ambassador to the Philippines, made the announcement yesterday following a courtesy call on Defense Secretary Angelo Reyes at Camp Aguinaldo, Quezon City.

"He (Mueller) is stopping by as part of a regional tour to promote law enforcement cooperation, particularly against terrorism," Ricciardone said.

Mueller was due in Malaysia Wednesday as part of a tour of Asia-Pacific countries that began in Australia and was to take him to Indonesia and the Philippines, for talks on the "war against terrorism," Agence France Presse reported.

His arrival comes on top of the ongoing military exercise called Balikatan 02-1 in which hundreds of American troops are training with Filipino soldiers.

The exercise, also dubbed Enduring Freedom-Philippines, has raised suspicions its real intent is to rescue the American hostages, Martin and Gracia Burnham, being held by the Abu Sayyaf terror group in Mindanao.

Reyes said he and Ricciardone discussed the plight of the Burnhams, with the ambassador understanding the situation and the concern of the Philippine government in wanting to recover the hostages, including Filipino nurse Ediborah Yap, safely.

3 acquitted in Zambo blast

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Three suspected Abu Sayyaf bandits, accused of bombing the puericulture center here last October, have been acquitted by a local court for lack of evidence.

Marvin Geonson alias Abdulmalik, Rodel Ladrera alias Jamarul, and Habibula Lakibul walked free from prison after Tuesday's verdict by Judge Vicente Cabatingan of the RTC Branch 15 who said he found no evidence to convict them.

Geonson, Ladrera and Jamarul, who have been detained without bail since their arrest last year, promptly denounced the police for allegedly torturing them to exact forced confessions.

Police here had no immediate reaction.

Defense lawyer Abdulmoin Pakam said prosecutors succeeded in presenting only one witness during the hearings that started in November.

Cabatingan found witness Fermo Bartolome's testimony as not credible. ***Rolly A. San Juan, PDI Mindanao Bureau, and AFP***

11,259 pass UP admission

A TOTAL of 11,259 high school seniors out of a total of 67,248 will carve their future with University of the Philippines starting this June.

This total, which is based only on the applicants' first choice of campus, showed a considerable increase from last year's 10,667, according to the UP Office of Admissions.

Of the total number of applicants, 39,801 or about 59.19 percent came from private high schools. Surprisingly, however, the list of qualifiers indicate only 38.71 percent from the same academic institutions and puts students from public, science and state high schools to account for about 60 percent of the successful applicants. Qualifiers from the strictly public high school type alone constitute 37.48 percent of the total, almost at par with the number coming from their private high school counterparts.

Troops repulse Abu attack on Basilan town

ZAMBOANGA CITY—Abu Sayyaf guerrillas launched a mortar attack on a Basilan town in retaliation for a military crackdown backed up by United States troops, an Army commander said Wednesday.

The rebels under cover of darkness swooped down on the town hall of Lantawan, firing mortar and machine guns, said Basilan Army chief Col. Alexander Aleo.

"There was an explosion and gunfire, but the rebels fled after soldiers and government militiamen repelled the attack," Aleo said, adding that there were no casualties on either side.

Television reports said the attack occurred just a few kilometers from an Army encampment where a 12-man Alpha team of US Special Forces troops was deployed with Filipino soldiers. No Americans took part in the encounter, however, it was reported.

The attack came hours after two senior members of the Abu Sayyaf were arrested by intelligence operatives in this southern port city, officials said.

Ghalib Hassan and Mon Asa, both believed to be bodyguards of Abu Sayyaf leader Isnilon Hapilon, were detained on Tuesday after leaving Basilan for "rest and recreation" in Zamboanga, police said.

The government had posted a bounty of P1 million ($19,600) on each of their heads, police spokesperson Supt. Isnaji Bantala said.

The two were reportedly involved in a 1995 Abu Sayyaf raid on the predominantly Christian town of Ipil that left more than 50 people dead, and in last year's kidnapping of a group of tourists from a Palawan resort, police said.

Most of the hostages were freed, allegedly in exchange for ransom, or were murdered. The rebels are still holding an American Christian missionary couple, Martin and Gracia Burnham, and a Filipino nurse, Ediborah Yap, hostage from the raids.

Some 660 US troops are deployed in the Philippines to advise Filipino soldiers hunting the Abu Sayyaf guerrillas on Basilan.

In Manila, US Ambassador Francis Ricciardone said he was optimistic the joint operations "will lead to results," adding that the war on terrorism has strengthened the ties between both governments.

"We are treaty allies, but the relationship has particular meaning now with both countries . . . engaged in an important global campaign," Ricciardone told reporters after a visit to the defense department. *AFP*

RP cops warned US of nuke attack in '95

US officials received a warning as early as 1995 that Islamic militants were plotting to attack an American nuclear site, but did not pass along the information to the agency that oversees nuclear facilities or to the plants themselves, The Associated Press has learned.

The warning came in police interrogations of convicted terrorist Abdul Hakim Murad and from a computer seized in the Philippines from Ramzi Yousef, mastermind of the 1993 attack on the World Trade Center. Both men were linked to Osama bin Laden and his al-Qaida terrorist network, and are serving life in prison in the United States for plotting to blow up 12 US-bound airliners.

The AP learned of the 1995 warning through secret intelligence documents and interviews with officials in the United States and the Philippines.

Secret report

According to a secret Philippine report, a letter obtained from Yousef's computer indicated he was "planning to attack any nuclear facilities in the US and unspecified targets in France and Great Britain."

Yousef, who ran the al-Qaida cell that targeted the World Trade Center in 1993, discussed the plan with Murad when the two met in October 1994 in Quetta, Pakistan, according to statements Murad made to interrogators.

But Murad, who was arrested in Manila in January 1995, said he was unaware of the specifics of the plan to attack nuclear facilities.

43"During a debriefing session, Murad told us about this planned attack on an unspecified nuclear facility. We passed on that information from Murad to them (US officials)," Mendoza said.

Murad also told investigators that he and other Middle Eastern students took pilot training at US flight schools in the early 1990s and that he had proposed a suicide mission in which he would fly a jetliner into a federal building.

That information, provided six years before the Sept. 11 attacks on the World Trade Center and the Pentagon, also was shared with FBI agents in Manila. An FBI agent who accompanied Murad back to the United States for trial, testified in 1996 that Murad spoke about plans for a nuclear attack.

No credible threat

Victor Dricks, spokesperson for the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, said the government agency charged with overseeing the country's 104 nuclear facilities had not heard of such a warning during 1995.

"We did not know of any credible threat against any specific facility that we would take seriously enough to take some action on," he said.

Carl Crawford, manager of nuclear communications at Energy Nuclear, which operates nine reactors in the South and the Northeast, said that in 1995 the company "never received any formal communications from the NRC or any other federal law enforcement agency regarding such threats. We never received any request to go on high alert."

In January, the NRC alerted nuclear power plants that the government had received a tip from an al-Qaida operative that terrorists might be planning a suicide attack on a power reactor.

An FBI official, speaking on condition of anonymity, said at the time that the NRC had acted on old information that had been deemed not credible. But the NRC communication said the agency decided to issue the alert after an FBI agent in Washington state contacted a nuclear power plant about the threat.

Highest alert

The NRC ordered the nation's nuclear plants operating in 31 states to their highest alert level after Sept. 11 and at least seven states are using National Guard troops to help secure reactors.

The Federal Aviation Administration banned private planes from flying within 17.7 km of nuclear plants and the US Coast Guard is patrolling the Great Lakes to keep ships away from plants on the coastline.

Some lakes with power plants on their shores have been closed to recreational activities altogether, although officials have said that at least portions of the lakes will be reopened soon.

Exelon Nuclear, which owns 10 plants, closed three Illinois cooling lakes after the attacks. A spokeswoman said the plants were reevaluating security, including how close boaters could get to the facilities.

In France, surface-to-air missiles were positioned near a major nuclear reprocessing plant and a military base for nuclear submarines six weeks after the Sept. 11 attacks. Radar systems capable of scouting out airplanes flying at low altitudes were stationed there as well. ***AP***

Silvestre, 98

MAXIMINA A. Silvestre, widow of renowned Tagalog poet Aniceto F. Silvestre, died yesterday morning. She was 98.

A former schoolteacher, Silvestre was the proprietor of Constancia Pre-School, which has provided education for hundreds of Sampaloc, Manila residents since it was established 44 years ago.

"Lola Minang," who hails from San Mateo, Rizal, left behind five sons, four daughters, 37 grandchildren, and 40 great grandchildren.

She is survived by children J. Plaridel and Esther; Lakambini and Rosauro Ma. Reyes; Flerida and Celestino Roque; Renato and Laura; Celia and Rodolfo de Guzman, Ofelia and Norberto Cruz; Salvador and Corazon; Aniceto Jr. and Rose, and Senen and Cynthia.

As was her wish, her remains now lie at Constancia Pre-School at 237 Constancia (renamed R. Cristobal) Street, Sampaloc, Manila. Internment will be announced later.

THE DAILY GOSPEL

Thursday, March 14, 2002
4th Week of Lent

1st Reading: **Ex 32:7-14**
Gospel: **Jn 5:31-47**

Jesus said to the Jews, "If I bore witness to myself, my testimony would be worthless. But Another One is bearing witness to me and I know that his testimony is true when he bears witness to me. John also bore witness to the truth when you sent messengers to him, but I do not seek such human testimony; I recall this for you, so that you may be saved.

John was a burning and shining lamp, and for a while you were willing to enjoy his light. But I have greater evidence than that of John—the works which the Father entrusted to me to carry out. The very works I do bear witness: the Father has sent me. Thus he who bears witness to me is the Father who sent me. You have never heard his voice and have never seen his likeness; then, as long as you do not believe his messenger, his word is not in you.

You search in the Scriptures thinking that in them you will find life; yet Scripture bears witness to me. But you refuse to come to me, that you may live. I am not seeking human praise; but I have known that love of God is not within you, for I have come in my Father's name and you do not accept me. If another comes in his own name, you will accept him. As long as you seek praise from one another instead of seeking the glory coming from the only God, how can you believe?

Do not think that I shall accuse you to the Father. Moses himself in whom you placed your hope, accuses you. f you believed Moses, you would believe me, for he wrote of me. But if you do not believe what he wrote, how will you believe what I say?

Commentary

It could not have been easy for Jewish believers to make the leap of faith – to consider a man the equal of God. Today's gospel argues the case for Christ, from a Jewish perspective, calling witnesses: God, who authenticates Jesus through miracles; John the Baptist: "God sent him and he speaks God's words" (Jn. 3:34); and Scripture, as Matthew's gospel so often shows, or Peter's speeches in Acts 2 and 3. Acts 17:11 shows enthusiastic Jewish converts examining the scriptures "to see if these things were so" and coming to believe. But what might close the door to faith? How often Jesus returns to this answer: too much preoccupation with our image seeking praise from one another, using religion for status darkens and narrows the mind and heart.

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SUPREME COURT GUIDELINES

CRIMINAL LAW (AGGRAVATING CIRCUMSTANCES)—Evident premeditation—Evident premeditation was not established because the prosecution presented no evidence to prove (1) the time when the offender determined to commit the crime; (2) an act manifestly indicating that the offender had clung to his determination; and (3) a sufficient lapse of time between the determination to commit the crime and the execution thereof, to allow the offender to reflect on the consequence of his act. Indeed, it was established that the killing of the victim resulted from an argument between him and accused-appellant minutes prior to the attack. [Citations omitted.] [Justice Mendoza, Second Division, People v. Iglesia, G.R. No. 132354, September 13, 2001]

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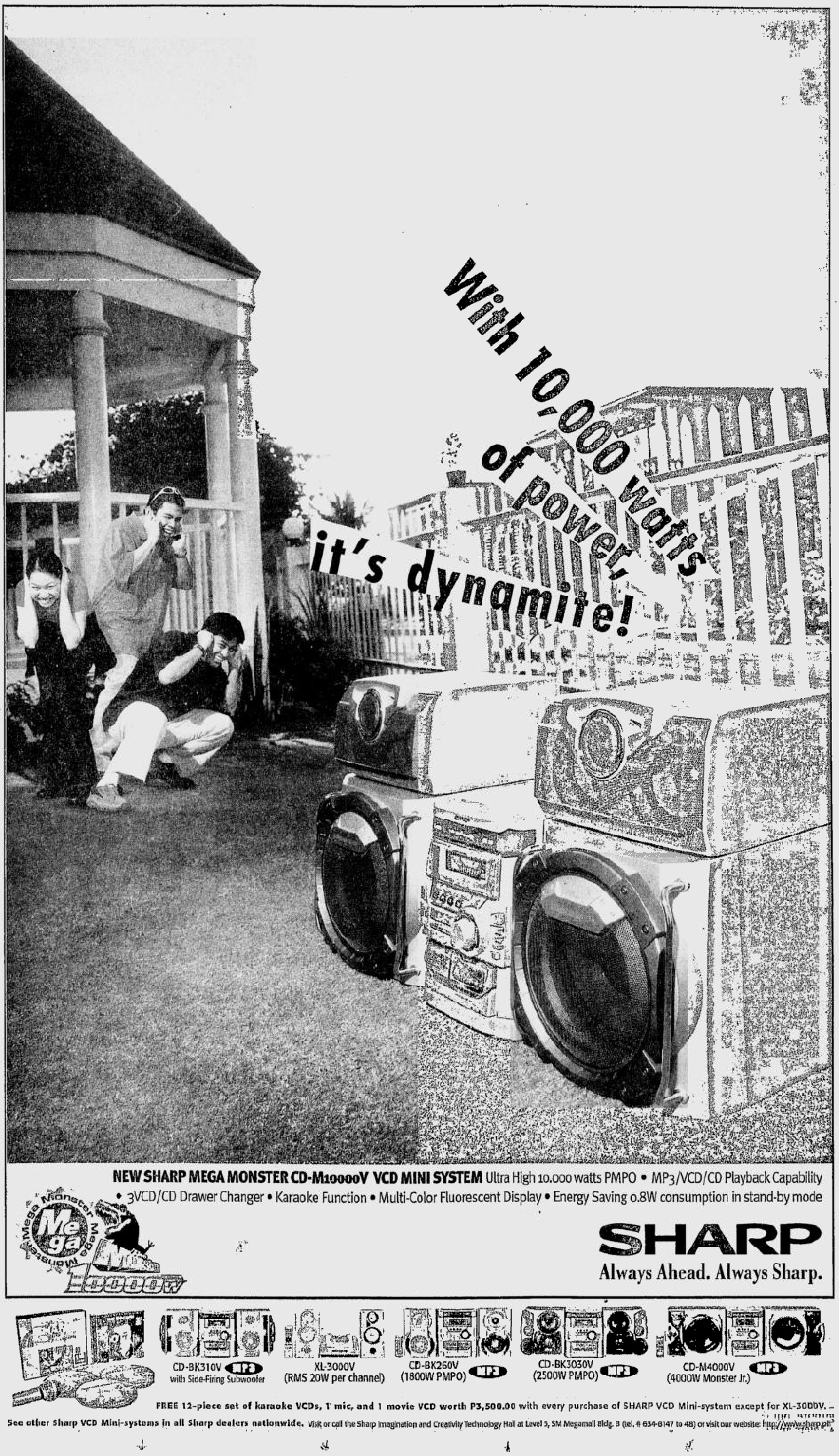

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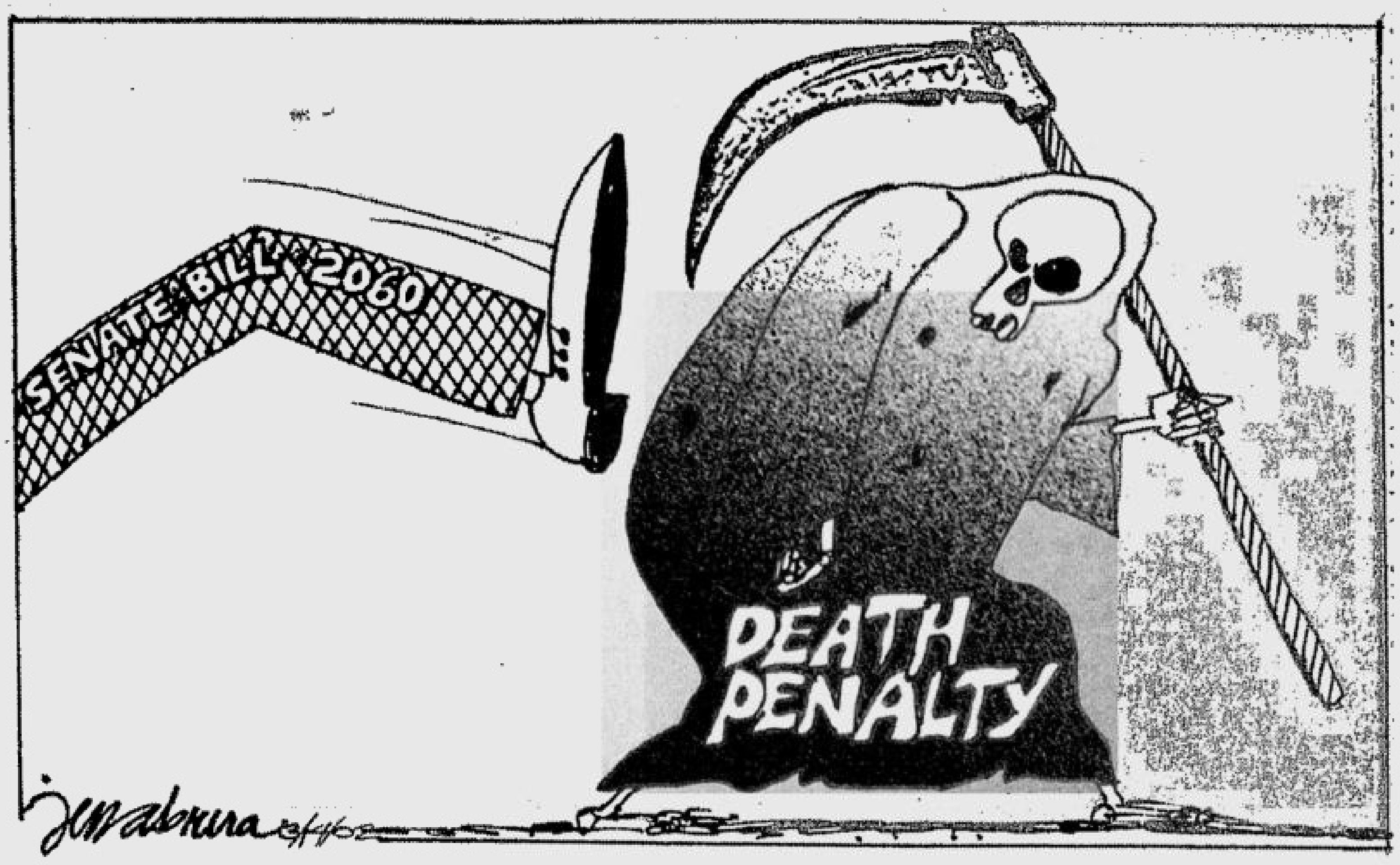

Showdown?

EDITORIAL

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo ended her flirtation with the "back-channel" approach to defuse former President Joseph Estrada's threat of inciting turbulence if his demand for medical treatment abroad were not granted after Estrada rudely refused to see her at the Veterans' Memorial Medical Center. Smarting from the rebuff, Ms Macapagal warned that the executive would not tolerate attacks from the Estrada camp that tend to undermine the judicial system and that she would act sternly to crush any conspiracy to stir up trouble over Estrada's trial by the Sandiganbayan.

Estrada's rebuff was a declaration of war, and Ms Macapagal's response was nothing less. Her response has burned all the bridges that could lead to a conciliatory approach in dealing with Estrada. The battle lines have been drawn and a test of strength is building up for tomorrow, when the Sandiganbayan proceeds with the arraignment of Estrada on a second perjury charge and hears his new petition to be allowed to seek medical treatment abroad.

The government has acknowledged that Estrada partisans have been recruiting members of the urban poor to join mass actions similar to those that took place when Estrada was arrested in April last year. Tomorrow is therefore the moment of truth for Estrada, a test of his ability to mobilize the rabble into a rebellion.

It will also be a test for the government. It will show the capacity of the government to control demonstrations, and whether it has neutralized the restless constituency that has emboldened Estrada to launch an attack on the institutions that put him on the road to impeachment, banished him into the political wilderness and put him on trial for plunder and other crimes.

Now that the battle lines have been drawn, the legislative "back-channeling" promoted by administration and opposition leaders to avert a showdown has hit an impasse. The President herself did not discourage the initiative by her chief lieutenant in the House of Representatives, Speaker Jose de Venecia, giving rise to suspicions that she was actually behind the effort to avoid a confrontation with Estrada. With the collapse of such initiatives, which saw the Estrada side making impossible demands, Estrada and his allies may be girding for a final showdown which will be decided by raw power.

Indications that the Estrada camp is not pulling back and is determined to provoke a head-on clash with the government is that yesterday a pro-Estrada mob staged a rally in the Supreme Court, following a privileged speech in the Senate by Sen. Luisa "Loi" Ejercito attacking the Court for allegedly conspiring to depose her husband. Estrada himself has accused Chief Justice Hilario Davide Jr. of soliciting the help of Lucio Tan in lobbying for his appointment as Chief Justice.

Although Davide has kept his dignity by not answering Estrada's charges, it is quite well known that Davide was recommended by former Chief Justice Andres Narvasa. When his appointment was announced on National Heroes Day, it came as a surprise for Davide. Besides, Davide is so discreet in his personal behavior that he hardly attends social functions, least of all, those associated with Lucio Tan. Tan, a former moneybag of Estrada, is now an enemy of Estrada who only recently denounced him. By linking Davide to Tan, Estrada wanted to taint the Chief Justice's reputation through foul means.

The intensified assault by the Estrada camp, marked by the demagogic rhetoric of his lawyers who now sound like political agitators instead of officers of the court, carries disrespect for the judiciary to a level of vehemence never experienced by the courts. The vehemence is understandable. The Supreme Court, in legitimizing the succession of President Macapagal after massive popular demonstrations, was the only civilian institution that prevented the crisis of 2000-2001 from plunging the country into chaos and civil war.

This is the context in which the Court's series of interventions should be seen. These interventions were by no stretch of the imagination a judicial conspiracy with the political or business elite to remove Estrada from office.

In one sense, the looming showdown is between public support for the judicial system and the Estrada camp's recklessness and suicidal efforts to trash the rule of law and smash the political order. It is a struggle between a legal government and a band of lawless elements who have run amuck.

Comelec NCR wants Atienza disqualified

AS I SEE IT

Neal H. Cruz

PRESIDENT Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo's "Inang Bayan" commercial is worse than a dud. It has given rise to jokes and negative reactions. Especially that *paawa* remark that "it is no joke being President" and that she "carries the nation on her back."

In the first place, people are quick to quip that having her (or Erap) as President is the big joke. In the second place, nobody forced her to be President. On the contrary, it was she who forced herself into the presidency. She forced the duly-elected president, Erap, to step down so she could take over Malacañang. In the third place, thousands of other Filipinos would be glad to change places with her. In fact, Erap is reclaiming the presidency. And in the fourth place, millions of Filipinos are in a much worse situation than she is.

She's having a hard time as President? She can always chuck it and live happily ever after. Then the Filipino *bayan* can live happily, too.

* * *

Former Manila Mayor Alfredo Lim exploded a small bomb at the Kapihan sa Manila last Monday. He revealed that the Commission on Elections, National Capital Region Office, has recommended the disqualification of incumbent Mayor Lito Atienza for violation of the Omnibus Election Code.

"Considering that respondent (Atienza) has already been proclaimed as the winning mayoralty candidate and has in fact assumed office," said the recommendation to the Comelec en banc, "said proclamation shall be hereby annulled and he shall be disqualified from continuing to hold office in accordance with Section 68 of the Omnibus Election Code.

"It is further recommended that a preliminary investigation be conducted to determine probable cause for prosecution of respondent Atienza for the election offenses alleged in the petition."

The findings and recommendations were signed by directors Ferdinand T. Rafanan and Esmeralda Amora-Ladra of the Comelec NCR Office.

* * *

The regional office had investigated the petition filed by lawyer Amando Tetangco for the disqualification of Atienza allegedly because he (Atienza) had "prematurely campaigned and bought votes using government funds between Feb. 19 and March 29, 2001, in violation of the Election Code. The campaign period for local candidates was from March 31 to May 12, 2001. Atienza filed his certificate of candidacy on Feb. 22, 2001."

In his petition, Tetangco alleged that upon the instruction of Atienza, the City of Manila disbursed various amounts for corresponding activities designed to promote his candidacy in the May 14, 2001 elections:

1. P1,686,877.50 for holding a six-day dinner on March 23-25 and 27-29, 2001 with around 9,000 barangay officials at the City Hall of Manila.
2. P245,600 for dinner for young voters at the Ocean Dragon Seafood Restaurant on Feb. 23 and 24, 2001. T-shirts were also given away during the dinner.
3. P163,616.36 for transportation, food and accommodation of the NGO youth leaders and SK chairpersons who attended an assembly on March 27, 28 and 29, 2001 at the Subic Freeport Zone in Olongapo City.
4. P125,115 for transportation, food and hotel accommodations of local elective officials who attended a "Leadership Training Seminar" in Tagaytay on March 10 and 11, 2001.
5. P107,927.50 for luncheon for media personalities in the Manila Times office on Feb. 19 and 20, 2001.

Numerous disbursement vouchers were attached to the complaint.

Tetangco contended that all these activities were election offenses punishable under the Omnibus Election Code. He alleged that Atienza disbursed public funds for the activities mentioned for no other purpose than to promote his candidacy.

* * *

In his defense, Atienza averred that his acts were part of his "constant consultation and liaison with barangay officials, the youth and NGOs necessary to address the pressing, relevant problems and needs of the community." He said his acts were "not only perfectly legal as they were sanctioned under Sections 34, 35 and 36 of the Local Government Code of 1991 but likewise imperative. Government operations do not cease to be operative during the election period lest public interest be jeopardized."

But the Comelec office ruled that indeed such meetings, seminars, luncheons distribution of T-shirts, etc. were "made as premature campaign activities in violation of Section 80 of the Omnibus Election Code."

The Comelec ruling said, "Vote buying under Section 261 (a), and the use of public funds or money under Section 261 (o) are both embraced by Section 68 (a) of the Omnibus Election Code which refers to the giving of 'money and other material consideration to influence, induce or corrupt the voters.' Said Section 68 (a) covers both public and private money."

"Its violation," the ruling added, "is substantiated and proved by the numerous vouchers of petitioners showing the expenditures of public funds on various dates..."

The recommendation still has to be acted upon by the Comelec en banc. Atienza has not yet commented on Lim's revelations.

Lim asked the Comelec during the Kapihan to act quickly on the recommendation and not sit on it as it has done to many election protests. "Don't promulgate your decision when only one week of the term is left," Lim urged. "Affirm it or reject it, either is okay with me. But please decide it promptly."

Wrong turn

THERE'S THE RUB

Conrado de Quiros

I READ last Monday about how 2,000 applicants for driver's licenses flunked the drug tests last October. This was revealed by the Dangerous Drugs Board, following the Land Transportation Office's new requirement for drivers to take drug tests.

The results were only for last October, the DDB said, as it was still collating those for succeeding months. But those initial results already indicate the alarming extent of drug use in this country. It has not yet acted on this by way of sending those who flunked the tests to rehabilitation centers, or charging them with criminal offenses, using illegal drugs being as punishable in this country as pushing them.

The DDB seems very pleased with itself with this, and seems to think this justifies the fees for drug testing that the LTO is now charging from applicants. It doesn't.

The LTO is not in the business of keeping the streets safe from drug addicts, it is in the business of making the streets safe from road menaces. I don't know that drug addicts naturally pose a menace to other drivers and pedestrians, quite apart from themselves. But even if they do, they are not the worst road menace there is. There are others, and far more lethal ones. Why the LTO, and other authorities, should concentrate on drug users and not on the others, only they can say.

At the very least, the requirement of drug testing for driver's licenses is like the seatbelt law. The seatbelt law has some uses, but it lacks a sense of proportion, particularly when you look at the kind of traffic we have. How can you die in a car collision while crawling at 20 kph most of the way? At the very most, the new requirement offers a new source of corruption for land transportation and drug officials. The DDB says 2,000 applicants for driver's licenses flunked the drug tests last October. It doesn't say how many of them are not driving now. In this country, there is no natural connection between the one and the other.

What makes the whole thing achingly funny is that the LTO should require a test for drugs when it does not require a test for driving. Which is what it is there for to begin with. Those who have applied for a driver's license for the first time will know what I'm saying. The written test is a complete farce. It is not merely that you are asked to take the test with other people and with no one watching, it is that the answers are right there on a manual or pamphlet that is going around. Indeed, it is not even that, it is that nobody checks the test papers at all. They are collected, and dumped in a wastebasket.

The actual driver's test is even funnier. You are asked to drive a few meters in a compound by a very bored fellow, who says "*Pwede na 'yan*" after a while, half-expecting to be slipped a bill or two in appreciation for his leniency. I don't know that anybody has ever flunked this test. Only the blind or utterly inept who sideswipes an official while showing his skills, or lack of them, can possibly do so. And maybe not even them, I wouldn't put it past this country. If a blind man can get a license to own a gun—*onli in da Pilipins!*—a blind man can get a license to drive a car.

And that is for people like me who believe in taking those tests. Others have gotten their driver's license without setting foot in an LTO office.

Contrast that with the horror stories Filipinos tell about driving tests in the United States. Most everyone I know flunked their test the first time around, for various infractions, ranging from parking on a lane reserved for the handicapped, changing lanes without signaling, and one-hand driving. They take their tickets there very seriously because three offenses of the same nature land you in a reviewer's class, and in worst cases to taking the same tests to get your license back.

That brings me to the other true menace on the road, the one our authorities seem completely oblivious to. That is DUI, a dreadful offense that could cost you your license in the United States. DUI, of course, is shortcut for driving "under the influence," the influence being of alcohol and not of shabu. The horror stories in that respect of Filipinos in the United States are even more horrific. One was horrified to see his insurance zoom from $300 to $3,000 on top of being steeply fined. Another had to spend several weeks in driving school. And another did community work in lieu of serving time. All now make sure they have designated drivers when they drink.

That is what local cops, if not transportation officials, should be routinely testing drivers for, especially deep into the night. Each time I hear someone boast that he can take care of himself after having one too many, I am tempted to say that I am not worried about him, I am worried about the other people on the road. Drunk drivers do not just pose a threat to themselves, they pose a threat to other people. With pedestrians not particularly caring to obey rules either (you find them crossing streets on green lights), the danger increases tenfold.

But I have yet to know of anybody being arrested for drunk driving. I have yet to know of anyone flunking a test for drunk driving, if one has been done at all. I do know that half the time the cops are too drunk themselves to notice. I did smell someone reeking of gin at a checkpoint many years ago, which brought a chill to my heart. But that's another story, checkpoints.

I'm not saying drug testing for a driver's license is absolutely useless. I'm saying that in light of the real problems our roads groan with, it's, well, like fining someone whose car yields a cache of high-powered firearms for a broken taillight.

* * *

Comments to dequiros@vasia.com

Davide's strange way of showing 'gratitude'

POLITICAL TIDBITS

Belinda Olivares-Cunanan

AFTER DEPOSED President Estrada's yarn that only his US doctor can operate on his bum knee failed to take off, and his firing of his lawyers didn't move the Sandiganbayan special division to scuttle his trial, he enlisted ranking politicians to get him a "political solution" but this too fell flat. Now he has desperately trained his guns on the highest court of the land, specifically on Chief Justice Hilario Davide by saying that he had lobbied for his post by using tycoon Lucio Tan to get to Erap. By casting aspersions on the man who is perceived to be holding the entire judiciary together, Erap seeks to destroy it.

* * *

The lobby yarn was denied both by Davide's chief of staff, Conrad Tolentino, who quoted the Chief Justice as saying, "I did not lobby," and by Tan's office. Recall that Davide was the most senior associate justice after Chief Justice Andres Narvasa, who was retiring. Because of the seniority rule, Davide was the strongest candidate for the post. Moreover, he was backed up by so many sectors. Besides, Erap's new yarn is not credible as he has been caught spinning too many tales.

Granting Davide did lobby for his post, he must have a strange way of showing gratitude to his benefactor. All his actuations directly affecting Erap, from his impartial handling of the impeachment trial to the Supreme Court decisions on the legitimacy of President Macapagal's takeover, the Anti-Plunder Law's constitutionality and returning Jinggoy Estrada's bail petition to the Sandiganbayan, were not favorable to Erap. If Davide had truly lobbied for his post, he certainly did not repay his benefactor one bit. Ranged against Erap's claim, given his propensity to twist things as in the Jose Velarde case, is the fact that the surveys show Davide to be the official most trusted by the people.

* * *

Some legislators have asked President Macapagal not to reappoint Comelec Chair Alfredo Benipayo, after the Commission on Appointments failed anew to confirm him. They argue that even if he were to be confirmed, the stalemate between him and Commissioner Luzviminda Tancangco would remain and the 2004 elections would be jeopardized. But what makes them think that a new chair would not be treated the same way by the cantankerous Tancangco? I submit that she would still give the new chair a hard time because he or she would be a Macapagal appointee and Tancangco's group is loyal to Estrada. Moreover, she wants to protect herself after being linked to some irregularities in the Comelec, and a new chair could revive those issues. These lawmakers should realize that the only way out of this impasse is to impeach Tancangco, as businessman Joe Concepcion has proposed earlier.

* * *

President Macapagal is buffeted by criticism over a number of issues, but doubtless she was cheered up by the unanimous verdict of 21 donor groups, representing multilateral institutions like the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank and foreign governments led by the United States and Japan. Their verdict: the administration is on the right track and they support its anti-poverty thrust, but a lot of improvements have to be made in the utilization of official development assistance (ODA).

The foreign donors met recently at the Clark Special Economic Zone to listen to a number of Cabinet members, led by Finance Chief Jose Isidro Camacho, present the administration's medium-term program for poverty alleviation. Then the donors critiqued these programs from their own perspective, in terms that were quite frank and candid, with special emphasis on where improvements could be made in the use of the ODA. What's significant is that at the conference's end, the donors, despite their own economic difficulties back home, pledged ODA totaling $2.8 billion for this year, $2 billion more than the amount they extended during Estrada's term in 2000.

* * *

Lloyd McKay, lead economist of the World Bank here, summed it up for the group of donors when he said that the Philippines "is rightly proud of what has been accomplished in difficult circumstances in the past year," such as the GNP growth rate of 3.7 percent and the GDP growth rate of 3.4 percent, in contrast to worse performances in the Asian region. This was echoed by the IMF which noted the Philippine economy's "solid macroeconomic performance over the period" despite the global decline. Various donor nations such as Japan, Australia, Canada, the United States and the European Union also affirmed their confidence in the administration's economic and social reform program.

It was left to Japan, the biggest donor in the ODA package, however, to articulate a valid concern: that the government exert every effort to utilize more efficiently the ODA, so that Japanese taxpayers, who are burdened with a worsening economy, will be able to understand and support it. It behooves the government to listen to the foreign donors' sentiments. More on the ODA later.

* * *

Renowned Bible scholar Fr. Renato Jose Lopez, who has guided many pilgrim groups spiritually in the Holy Land and is working for his doctorate in Sacred Scripture in Rome, is arriving from Rome and will give a two-day Lenten recollection this Saturday, March 16, from 9 a.m. up to Sunday March 17, 1 p.m. at the Capuchin Retreat House in Lipa City. The topic will be "Toward a Christ-centered spirituality" and will be divided into three talks: "And the Word was Made Flesh—A Spirituality of the Incarnation," "Dying & Rising—A Spirituality of the Pascal Mystery," and "The Church, the World & I—A Spirituality of Communion." The weekend, stay-in recollection, which costs P1,250 all inclusive for two days, includes group-sharing and discussions, community prayer and Eucharistic celebration. I highly recommend it. Father Lopez was our spiritual director during our Jubilee Year pilgrimage to the Holy Land, and we all found his daily reflections very insightful. Call Arlina Onglao at 0917-814-8127, or at 929-0144, 929-0155, 426-0601.

Not yet contempt?

AT LARGE

Rina Jimenez-David

AS a journalist who has been "reprimanded" by the Supreme Court for allegedly showing "disrespect" to it, I'm wondering when the good justices will find the gumption to reprimand, at the very least, former President Joseph Estrada, his lawyers and his followers.

Just now, I've seen news footage of Erap supporters rallying in front of the Supreme Court. Calling the highest court of the land a "kangaroo court," they marched with kangaroo masks, some of which were even labeled with the names of Chief Justice Hilario Davide and other justices. The ralliers were also shown throwing stones at the kangaroo figures.

But what could be more "contemptuous" of the Supreme Court than repeated assertions, by Erap, his lawyers and most recently his wife Sen. Loi Ejercito, that they could not hope to find justice from the tribunal because all the justices had "prejudged" the case against the ousted president? Erap has even targeted the Chief Justice for personal attacks, saying Davide actively lobbied for his appointment and only through the representation of businessman Lucio Tan.

Right now, if we go by the public statements of justices, the Supreme Court is playing it "cool," saying they remain unfazed by the criticism and are not at all affected by it. They may choose not to rise to Erap's bait, but the injustice of the situation sticks in my craw.

* * *

COMELEC Chair Alfredo Benipayo, as well as two other Comelec commissioners, are facing a hell of a time getting confirmed by the Commission on Appointments. Certainly a major factor has been the division within the poll body, with the other commissioners going to extraordinary lengths to block the appointment of Benipayo and their colleagues.

In exasperation, perhaps, two congressmen have called for the replacement of Benipayo, claiming that the "squabbling" among the officials has effectively paralyzed the operations of the body. But "squabbling" needs two parties, and if Benipayo and his allies are to be faulted for not getting along with their colleagues, then so should the other commissioners, led by the vociferous Luzviminda Tancangco.

And correct me if I'm wrong, but even if the Comelec is a "collegial" body, wasn't Benipayo appointed the chair of the commission? If the other commissioners are really interested in working together, shouldn't they cooperate with the chair?

For Malacañang to withdraw its support for Benipayo at this point would only send a message to all obstructionists in the bureaucracy that the best way to get rid of a boss you don't like is to make trouble until the appointing power loses patience.

* * *

SHE is a retired schoolteacher, he is a retired Navy officer. Their two children are married and living on their own, but the entire family is agog with preparations for the couple's golden wedding anniversary.

One day, though, the daughter arrives at her parents' home and finds her mother burning the invitations. "I don't want to push through with the celebration anymore," the mother tearfully tells her daughter. "I can't stand before a priest and profess my love for your father," she later explains to her daughter, son and his wife. The reason? For many years, and for most of their marriage, in fact, the mother has been a battered spouse.

This is the pivotal moment in "Golden Wedding," a video drama produced by the Philippine Legislators' Committee on Population and Development (PLCPD). Hard to believe, outlandish as it may seem, but a marriage can indeed last for an astonishing 50 years and yet be corrupted at its heart by violence and abuse.

Invited as a reactor at the presentation of the video, I said the drama's plot only goes to show that there is no "statute of limitations" on domestic violence. Unless someone, either the batterer or the battered spouse, acts to break the cycle of violence, the beatings will go on, no matter how long the marriage lasts, and perhaps until they bring a macabre fruition to their vow to stay together "until death do us part."

* * *

BUT as the retired schoolteacher also shows, neither is it too late to break away from an abusive relationship. With both her children married, she may not have seen any further need to keep the marriage intact, or accept any more pain and humiliation. And perhaps it took the looming occasion of their golden wedding anniversary to reveal the emptiness that lay in living a lie.

"Golden Wedding" adds another dimension to the issue with a plot twist. It turns out that the son is himself an abusive spouse. And it is his mother's courage that fuels his wife's decision to talk about her own abuse. Violence in the family is often generational, the video tells. The retired Navy captain grew up with an oppressive father, and by his own "example," raised a violent son.

Waiting until one's 50th anniversary might be an extreme example, but "Golden Wedding" also illustrates just how difficult and complicated the process of leaving can be for a battered woman. It is no small thing to dismantle a marriage. For a marriage unites not just two people, but two families, two sets of friends, and a shared history, especially if there are children.

Which is why a woman who decides to break the destructive cycle of her marriage deserves, not condemnation or disdain, but admiration and support. And if she decides to do this on the eve of her golden wedding anniversary, then she deserves even more praise. Not just for finding the courage to call it quits after all these years, but for 50 years of surviving.

Fish pens, fish cages and drowned fish

HUMAN FACE

Ma. Ceres P. Doyo

FOR INQUIRING senators and non-senators: What's the difference between a fish pen and a fish cage? A fish pen is built in shallow waters and is made of bamboo poles surrounded by a fish net. A fish cage is in deep waters. It uses either fiberglass or steel and nets held up by floaters. A cage can hold more fish. These are owned by fish pen/cage operators, not by poor, small fisherfolk.

Now behold a seascape with hundreds or thousands of these eyesores and the fish feeds being poured into the blue waters. Smell the rotting that takes place and watch the emergence of a deadly phytoplankton bloom. And think of the poor, small fishermen who have to navigate through all these and who have to sail far toward the blue horizon, way beyond the setting sun.

I'm writing this piece while a Senate inquiry on the recent massive fish kill in Bolinao is being conducted.

Senate Resolutions 238 and 241 (by Senators Loren Legarda-Leviste and Manuel Villar) urged "THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD AND THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON LOCAL GOVERNMENT TO CONDUCT AN INQUIRY, IN AID OF LEGISLATION, INTO THE MASSIVE FISH KILL OF MILKFISH WHICH OCCURRED AT CAQUIPOTAN CHANNEL IN BOLINAO, PANGASINAN INVOLVING AROUND 2,000 METRIC TONS VALUED AT 100 MILLION PESOS, WITH THE INTENT OF INTRODUCING REMEDIAL MEASURES TO PREVENT ITS SPREAD TO OTHER WATERS AND TO ENSURE THAT THERE WOULD BE NO REOCCURRENCE OF THE SAME FISH KILL IN BOLINAO, PANGASINAN AND IN OTHER WATERS OF THE PHILIPPINE ARCHIPELAGO."

I am glad the Senate noticed.

Among those invited to the inquiry was Margaret F. Celeste who heads the Movement of Bolinao Concerned Citizens Inc. (MBCCI), a group of never-say-die townsfolk who, some years ago, fought a proposed P13-billion cement plant that threatened Bolinao. As I mentioned a few columns ago, the Bolinao that reveled in victory against a Goliath in 1996, is eating dust now because parts of Cape Bolinao has turned into a "killing seas."

The recent massive fish kill had been expected by scientists because the waters of Bolinao have been choking with fish pens/cages and in fish feeds.

The fish drowned in all that mush.

Alas, there are "confirmed reports" that many operators are restocking and reseeding their cages and pens with bangus fingerlings despite the mayor's order for a moratorium.

The MBCCI has sent a strongly worded letter to the Bolinao Fishpen/Cage Operators Association headed by Elias Quisay Jr. Among the signatories were Margaret Celeste and former Cabinet Secretary Jacobo Clave, a die-hard son of Bolinao. Excerpts: "A few weeks ago, a massive fish kill hit our town, which landed Bolinao in the headlines again. We have been the focus of attention not only here in the Philippines but also abroad. Everybody is asking, why? What happened to Bolinao and its people?

"Different sectors are pointing fingers at who are to blame. But is it not better if we all humbly accept that we failed and should learn a lesson from this? Can we start to mend the pieces and show the world that we can repair the damage done to the environment, especially to the coastal waters?

"The fish pen/cage industry in Bolinao has given economic opportunities to our townspeople in terms of jobs and taxes. But it has also contributed to the fast degradation of our coastal waters...which led to the massive fish kill."

Navigational routes in Santiago Island have become difficult because there are just too many cages and pens. Small fisherfolk who have the preferential rights to use the area have been displaced. Their catch suffered since the fish kill. Even the fish of the reef in the area either died or left for yonder bluer waters in search of oxygen.

Cape Bolinao, is—or was—a marine scientist's paradise, which is why it is the home of the University of the Philippines Marine Science Institute. Now even the UPMSI's marine research laboratory is affected because of the poor quality of the sea water.

Tourists have shied away. Many townsfolk were downed after they ate the "drowned" fish. The bangus market has been adversely affected.

The UPMSI had issued a statement that scientifically described how and why the fish kill occurred (which I quoted here). That was one press statement a journalist would love to read—so concise and informative, so scientific yet easy to understand. So damning too. Scientists speaking with authority:

"Assuming that the dead fish are not left to rot in the municipal waters and that fish cage and fish pen operations are discontinued at least for the time being, the waters of Bolinao will have a chance to recover. However, the recuperation period may take a while and does not preclude the reoccurrence of *P minimum* and other potentially harmful plankton blooms.

"This disaster is yet another reminder that unsustainable aquaculture should not be pursued at the expense of the environment. The UPMSI had suggested earlier that unless effective regulation of aquaculture activities and good practices are pursued, greater losses may be expected for Bolinao."

Malcolm I. Sarmiento Jr., director of the Bureau of Fisheries and Aquatic Resources, sent his recommendations to Bolinao Mayor Jesus F. Celeste (Margaret's brother). Sarmiento also called for a moratorium and a limit to the number of cages and pens (480 units at the most). This would mean removing illegal sea cages and limiting their number (five per operator). No dummies allowed. He also suggested a management plan for sea cages.

Sound legislation, better implementation.

Love song

YOUNGBLOOD

Mimi

*We want to know what the young are thinking about. What are their thoughts on current issues? We welcome contributions from the twentysomething and below.—**Ed.***

LUIS loves to sing to me.

It's not unusual, I suppose, for people in love to sing love songs to each other. The thing is, Luis prides himself on thinking up spur-of-the-moment, melodious protestations of love he calls his "original compositions." At times the song is over in six lines; other times in six minutes. Sometimes he sings the words to familiar tunes, but when he's feeling especially inspired, even the melodies are original. Oftentimes they are very sweet, usually along the lines of anyone-can-see-you-are-the-love-of-my-life-I-want-to-spend-the-rest-of-my-life-with-only-you-since-no-one-compares-with-you. A few times, just to get my goat after launching another campaign to get me to gain weight, he comes up with compositions like the one he made for me just a few hours ago (sung to the tune of "Rudolph, the Red-Nosed Reindeer"): *Mimi, my takaw girlfriend/ has a very big bilbil/ and if you ever saw it/ you will really get gigil!"* Aaargh. Like that would really motivate me to eat some more.

Weird, Al Yankovic-ish lyrics notwithstanding, I often find myself asking what great things I have done to win the love of this man.

Being my first boyfriend, Luis made sure that our first Valentine's Day together would be unforgettable. A couple of weeks before V-Day, he would tease me about preparing a surprise for me. By then he already knew I would drive myself crazy trying to figure out what he was planning when I wasn't pestering him to tell me. Sometimes he'd give me clues, only to beg me later to please, please, please stop guessing.

Finally, it was the 14th. I continued to ponder what we would be doing until I thought I knew where he was taking me. When I spoke to him over the phone that morning, I said I would make one more guess and told him what I thought.

He said I got it right, and it was obvious that he was not too happy to have his little secret out. My heart sank as I realized I should have shut up. I knew I had hurt his feelings.

He picked me up that evening half an hour before the agreed time, sporting a sunburn. He told me he had to pick some things from his house and asked to come inside while waiting. Then he switched on the TV and asked me not to leave the room for any reason whatsoever.

After he left the room, I started to hear sounds coming from the roof. Probably cats, he explained after he came back. I said they must have been very big cats to make such a load noise.

He took my hand and led me out the front door. But instead of proceeding to the car, he made me enter the kitchen door and led me to the backyard where the water tank was. It was very dark and I was afraid someone would jump out of the shadows as part of some sick joke he wanted to play on me.

He started fiddling with some plugs and finally got the right one in. Hundreds of tivoli lights lit up his *labahan*.

But a lit-up *labahan* wasn't the surprise. My eyes were immediately drawn to a string of lights which led up to the water tank and on to the roof. It was then that I realized my guess was wrong, and I remembered that my boyfriend had some theater background, thus his excellent acting.

He told me to follow him to the roof, which I did, all the while trying not to look down and complaining that if this was going to be the first and last Valentine's Day date of my life, it would be his fault.

My yakking stopped when I saw the roof all lit up with tivoli lights; and the reason for his sunburn finally dawned on me. Up there was a little couch, a mini-component playing a romantic (okay, sappy, but I loved it) CD, an oven toaster and heart-shaped balloons which said "I love you." There was all the food he knew I loved, from *kesong puti* to strawberries, and he served me pasta with a modified Alfredo sauce he had prepared himself. I knew then what magic felt like.

He is so generous with his compliments to the point that sometimes they border on flattery. "Darling," he told me one morning when he came to the house to pick up something, "you look so cute *pala* early in the morning! When we're married, I'd love to wake up and see you looking like that." If you had seen me that morning with my puffy eyes and tousled hair, you would have called him a liar to his face. And yet I knew for some weird reason that he meant it.

In a hand-made blue envelope I keep in my desk is a birthday card he made for me. In front is a cut-out heart with my name written all over it. Inside is a picture of Luis when he was a chubby little boy, wearing the most serious look a 3-year-old can muster. His note, written with a bright red marker, said, "My heart knows only your name!"

More touching than the written note was the message my heart could read in the pencil-drawn lines he used as guides to cut out the heart and forgot to erase, in the smell of the glue he used to stick a small blue envelope together, in the visible markings of an erased heart on the wrong side of the chest of his picture as a little boy. I saw a 35-year-old man who, in spite of having every reason to flaunt his machismo (being a successful professional blessed with matinee-idol looks), labored one day to make his girlfriend a card that would tell her, in ways he could not have imagined, that he loved her deeply.

Once he told me about a conversation he had with his mom about me over dinner earlier that evening. He said to her, "You know, Ma, she's really the girl I love the most—next to you, of course!" His mom smiled and replied, "I know. I can tell."

I still don't know who gave the bigger compliment.

Of course, things are not always the way we want them to be. We fight, we get disappointed with each other, and sometimes I dwell on events he could not possibly have known would affect me when they happened. So he keeps reminding me that it's better not to question why certain things happened or didn't happen and instead remember that from the start, it was the Lord Who had brought us together and He doesn't make mistakes.

I find comfort in that. I try to remember that like an artist painting a masterpiece, God sometimes places on the canvas brush strokes that to the untrained eye would look like mistakes. But to someone more discerning, someone willing to wait until the painting is done before judging, the "mistakes" are actually strokes of genius that become obvious only when the painting is done. And so we wait until our painting is completed, both our hearts eager (though at times impatient) but still happy to be where we are.

Some nights when I am trying to sleep, unfounded fears come over me and whisper things I don't want to hear. My antidote is to listen hard enough until I can hear a lullaby, the strains of yet another of his "original compositions." It is my ticket to a world of sweet, sweet dreams.

Mimi, 26, is a gallery owner and freelance writer.

Hate campaign is on against MILF

LETTERS

IT is quite intriguing that the Philippine Government (GRP) has decided to call for a suspension in its peace negotiations with the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF), following the arrival of US military troops and war materiel in Mindanao.

The Macapagal administration, however, insists that the breakdown of the peace talks was caused by the MILF's failure to adhere to the ceasefire guidelines set last August 2001. The Philippine military claims that the MILF has mounted attacks to recapture some of its main camps that it lost to government offensives two years ago.

In addition, the administration also accused the MILF of coddling the bandit Abu Sayyaf group in MILF territories. Despite National Security Adviser Roilo Golez's attempt to downplay such collusion, his statement about MILF members "helping (in their) individual capacity, not as MILF" falls just short of saying that the MILF indeed has close ties with the bandit group.

The "hate campaign" being stirred by lumping the two groups together has justified the deployment of US troops in MILF territories such as those in Central Mindanao. Bangsamoro lands have virtually become a "borderless" base camp for both US and Filipino troops, despite the fact that the Abu Sayyaf's home front is on the island of Basilan.

Unlike the Abu Sayyaf which was identified as a terrorist group in the US-led "war against terror," the MILF is not in the watch list of the US government. But efforts to portray the MILF as a terrorist group far more dangerous than the Abu Sayyaf have already started.

Both Christian and Muslim communities, especially those in war-torn parts of Mindanao, believe there is a desperate need for the government to stop the war and exert all efforts to continue peace negotiations.

The indefinite suspension of the peace talks will delay the much sought-after solution to the oppression of the Bangsamoro people. Moreover, the US war of aggression will only lead to a massive witch-hunt of alleged members of the Abu Sayyaf and the MILF, and the harassment of legal Moro organizations advocating self-determination which will be branded as "terrorist groups."

The collapse of the peace talks will only prove that the Philippine government has failed to understand and resolve the economic, political and social roots of the rebellion being represented by the MILF. Suspending the peace negotiations gives both the United States and the Macapagal administration the license to unleash a militarist policy in Mindanao.

As we incessantly assert: We do not want another Afghanistan in Mindanao.

—AMIRAH ALI LIDASAN, Muslim convenor, Moro-Christian Peoples Alliance (MCPA), 48-A Mapagbigay St., Barangay Pinyahan, QC

Rampant misuse of gov't vehicles

I WOULD like to ask the government agencies concerned about the rampant use of government vehicles—those with red license plates—if they do not see anything illegal in the use of such vehicles for personal purposes.

I am working here Davao City and have seen a lot of red license plate cars, pickups, even Honda CRVs without markings on both sides of the vehicles to identify which government agencies they belong to. There should be a "For official use only" mark on both sides of the vehicles. Some have markings that are too small to see. It's as if the owners or occupants don't want us to know that what they're using are government vehicles.

During Sundays and holidays and even at night, you can see a lot of these vehicles in the premises of Gaisano Mall, Victoria Plaza and even in beaches and public markets.

I am contributing more than one-fourth of my salary every month to the government and here we see the abuse that they do to the vehicles. *Parang kanila talaga.*

I have seen young people driving these cars in and out of the city. Are these government employees allowing their sons, daughters or relatives to use these vehicles?

I would like to appeal to the traffic enforcers to apprehend these vehicles and make the drivers and the responsible persons answer for such misuse of government resources. These vehicles should have some papers or travel documents to justify their use. If the occupants cannot produce such papers, the vehicles concerned should be impounded.

Maawa naman kayo sa amin na nagbabayad ng buwis.

—RENE GONZALES, Union Cement Corp., Ilang, Davao City

Publishing substandard textbooks should be a crime

THIS is my reaction to the letter of Antonio Go last Feb. 18, 2002.

Ever since the publication of his series of exposés on substandard textbooks some time in June 2000, I have been diligently following the developments in that specific area on account of my children. Judging from his letter, I can deduce that not much has been achieved.

Since the mere act of littering in our already dirty streets is an offense that carries a corresponding penalty (P500 for one single candy wrapper), why not declare the writing and production of defective textbooks a crime, considering that they sully the mind and dirty the soul of schoolchildren? Why should Go bear the burden of waging a crusade that seems to be going nowhere since the criminals not only get away scot-free but actually laugh all the way to the bank? It really makes me very angry to know that mistakes of the magnitude cited in Go's letter are actually written in the textbooks my children are using. *Malaking kasalanan 'yan sa ating mga kabataan! Dapat talaga ay may katapat na kaparusahan at nang matigil na ang masamang kalakaran na 'yan.*

—PRUDENCIO COSME, 2 11th Avenue, Caloocan City

Cocofed rep should be on UCPB board

HAVING read with great interest the letter of Jose T. Marchan (PDI, 2/2/02), titled "Are new UCPB directors real coconut farmers?" I cannot help but agree with him when he said, "President Macapagal owes it to the coconut farmers in the country to publish the individual coconut landholdings of her nominees to the UCPB board representing the coconut farmers."

Indeed, I am surprised why no representative from the Cocofed (Coconut Producers Federation), which was the "duly authorized organization to represent all the coconut farmers in the country" from 1973 to 1982, was appointed by President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to the UCPB board. As a small coconut farmer myself and a member of Cocofed, I believe that this is grossly unfair to the organization.

The Cocofed may have shortcomings of its own, but I still maintain that the majority of its members are bona fide coconut landowner-farmers particularly in the provinces of Laguna and Quezon. It behooves the President to rectify this error in the appointment of UCPB board members.

—CRISOSTOMO B. VILAR, chapter vice chair, Cocofed, Pagsanjan, Laguna

P25-B PNB bailout deserves close scrutiny

IT is good to hear that the people to whom we delegated our democratic powers represent us in a way we want to be represented.

Such is the case with Sen. Aquilino Pimentel Jr., as he boldly questioned the government's P 25-billion bailout plan for the Philippine National Bank and the Lucio Tan group.

The PNB explained though that the loan was legal and, contrary to another senator's description (John Osmeña) not a "preferential treatment."

The current problems that bedevil the country today is enough reason to become extra careful especially when a bank as big as the PNB becomes immersed in financial problems.

I have nothing against the bailout plan, unless it is proven to be illegal and benefits only some influential people. But any deal that involves P25 billion of taxpayers' money is something that I would like to take a close look at. And the senators did. My thanks go to them.

—CHEERYL MAGBUHAT, Poblacion Mabini, Batangas

For a genuine rice self-sufficiency program

THIS is in reference to the news report that came out in your paper quoting me as saying that the National Confederation of Irrigators Associations (NCIA) is calling for the abolition of the National Food Authority. (PDI, 3/5/02)

I would like to clarify that the NCIA's stand is for the strengthening of the NFA and for the government to stop the policies on rice trade liberalization. As you would note in the article, we are appealing to the President to stop rice importation and instead focus on a genuine rice sufficiency program, scrap the privatization of rice importation and veto the bill that would remove the limit on the volume of rice that may be imported.

Likewise, the NCIA national, regional and provincial presidents/officers wrote a letter to the President and the legislators dated Feb. 25, 2002 titled, "Appeal to Her Excellency Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo to focus on rice self-sufficiency and to stop rice trade liberalization." This letter contains, among others, our appeal for strengthening the NFA and our strong rejection of House Bill 3339 and Senate Bill 1912 which would open the floodgates to unrestricted private importation of rice. We believe that the passage of these bills will spell doom for the local rice industry.

—SILVESTRE BONTO, regional president, National Confederation of Irrigators Associations, Camarines Sur, Bicol Region

I ACKNOWLEDGE the error in the construction of the sentence with regard to the demand of the irrigators' group that the privatization of the NFA be scrapped.

It was a matter of wrong sentence construction wherein the privatization should be before the NFA.

This happened because I was trying to compress the sentence.

I apologize for the error and the confusion it might have created in the NCIA.

—Juan Escandor Jr., PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Erap should be put in jail

THERE is one thing deposed President Joseph Estrada wants to achieve with his antics: to extract concessions from the courts and the Macapagal administration.

And for doing this ploy, I would like to see him stripped of all the comforts he is enjoying now. His detention at a city jail might make him realize how rules and laws have been bent to appease him.

This may send diehard Estrada loyalists to the streets in protest. There could be violence. But should upholding the laws of the land take a backseat to having a borrowed and uneasy calm?

—PETER SALAMBAN, cartooner@aol.com

Marriage and divorce in the colonial days

PINOY KASI

Michael L. Tan

WITH PARENTAL permission, a girl could get married at the age of 12, and a boy at 14. Women could divorce husbands who used "grossly abusive" language, or who used violence to force their wives to change their religion.

Those were just two of the paradoxical provisions of the Spanish Civil Code, which governed the daily lives of Filipinos for several decades.

The Civil Code was promulgated in 1889, to be used in Spain and all of her colonies, the Philippines included. The Code provided the first systematic definition of marriage and parenting roles, as well as rules on contracts, property rights, donations and inheritance. The Americans retained this Code when they took over and some of those provisions remain in our current laws.

What is most striking about the Civil Code is the way it institutionalized male authority over females. Under this Civil Code, both sons and daughters were placed under almost total control of their father until they reached the age of majority. Throughout the Code, the mother is mentioned as having authority only in case the husband "defaulted."

If something happened to the parents before the child reached that age, guardians were appointed with the following order of preference: the paternal grandfather, the maternal grandfather, the paternal grandmother, the maternal grandmother, the eldest brother.

The age of majority was set by the Spanish Civil Code at 23 but this was eventually lowered to 21 during the American period. Note, however, that the Spanish Civil Code had a provision that read: "...unmarried daughters who have attained their majority but are under twenty-five years of age, cannot leave the parental home without permission of the father or mother in whose company they live, except to marry, or when the father or mother has remarried."

While the age of majority was quite late, the minimum age of marriage, with parental permission, was quite low. Under the Spanish Civil Code, this was 12 for females and 14 for males, a provision that remained in force until 1929 when a new Marriage Law was passed, raising the minimum age of marriage to 14 for females and 16 for males.

Once married, the female now came under the authority of her husband. There were many provisions in the Spanish Civil Code on the rights and obligations of the husband and wife with greater emphasis on the wife's duties. Article 57 read: "The husband must protect the wife and the latter obey the husband." Article 58 required the wife "to follow her husband wherever he may establish his residence."

Article 59 named the husband as "the administrator of the property of the conjugal partnership..." In another section of the Civil Code, Article 1413 allowed the husband to "encumber the property of the conjugal partnership without the consent of the wife," a controversial provision that was, fortunately, challenged and softened, in several legal cases. The law was, however, very clear about the wife not being allowed to "bind the property of the conjugal partnership without the consent of the husband."

Article 61 prevented the wife from acquiring or selling property and entering into contracts without the permission of her husband, while Article 62 stated that "purchases of jewels, furniture and expensive things made without the permission of the husband shall be validated only in case the latter shall have consented to the use and enjoyment of such things by his wife."

It is amazing to read how a wife's enjoyment of material goods needed the husband's consent. Reading these Civil Code provisions helps us to understand why there was (and is) so much learned helplessness on the part of women. Note that Article 60 of the Spanish Code provided that "the husband is the representative of the wife. The latter cannot, without his permission, appear in any judicial proceeding in person or by attorney." With practically no legal personality, it was difficult to imagine how a woman could have developed her own personhood separate from her husband's.

The husband cast a long shadow even after he died. Under the Spanish Civil Code, a woman could not marry within 301 days following the death of her husband. If she was pregnant at the time she was widowed, she could not remarry until after she delivered the child of her late husband.

The Spanish Civil Code may seem backward today but local Catholic Church authorities actually blocked the implementation of several parts of the Code when it was first promulgated because it allowed civil marriages and divorce. The Americans, insisting on religious freedom and the separation of Church and State, adopted all these controversial provisions after they annexed the Philippines.

The Spanish Civil Code provided extensive grounds for divorce, including "personal violence, or grossly abusive or insulting language or conduct," a husband violently forcing his wife to change her religion, a husband proposing to prostitute his wife, attempts by either the husband or wife "to corrupt their sons or to prostitute their daughters" and the sentencing of the husband or wife to life imprisonment.

There was, however, discrimination in the grounds for divorce: adultery on the part of the wife was enough reason for divorce "in every case" but a husband taking up a concubine could be divorced only if "public scandal or disgrace" resulted from that relationship.

Divorce was probably quite rare though, considering how other sections of the Code limited a woman's right to go to the courts. In fact, we find a gradual dilution of the Civil Code's provisions on divorce. In 1917, a law was passed limiting the grounds for divorce to adultery or concubinage, and today, divorce is not allowed under any circumstance.

* * *

Comments to miguel@pinoykasi.net

Can we believe the Americans now?

THIS is in response to Howie Severino's view that the nationalist opposition to US intervention in Mindanao misses the point of the Armed Forces of the Philippines' incompetence. (PDI, 2/15/02)

I beg to disagree. While opposing the US military presence, the nationalist coalition has also pointed out the incompetence of the AFP in several forums.

Among the main points in the nationalist opposition to foreign troop presence, which informally justifies armed combat by US troops with the Abu Sayyaf, is the threat of internationalizing a local police problem. The Abu Sayyaf problem cannot be isolated from the historical and present injustices committed against the Muslim people, and that military solutions will surely fail, as the anti-Huk campaign failed with full CIA support when Colonel Landsdale himself was an adviser to President Ramon Magsaysay. After the Huks, the NPA came up.

As a young officer newly graduated from the Philippine Military Academy in the early 1950s, my father took part in the anti-Huk campaign. His immersion in the rural areas made him realize why peasants were rebelling, and see the importance of agrarian reform in the Philippines.

If the AFP cannot be reformed, together with the government, then perhaps the revolutionaries are right. But then as Greens, we believe in active non-violence to help transform the government and AFP into true instruments of the people. But this does not justify allowing the return of the militarist machine of the United States to make things worse.

The AFP was a creation of the United States (through the Philippine Scouts) to defeat the remnants of the Katipunan and Emilio Aguinaldo's army. The US colonial policymakers are morally responsible for the continuing problems of Mindanao, together with the complicity of the Filipino elite in subjugating Muslim communities in the South.

However, I still personally believe that the AFP is not beyond redemption. If we believe in active non-violence, we have to create the social conditions that will make reform of the institutions of Philippine society possible and successful.

Shall we allow the US special forces to solve our problems of kidnapping in Luzon and Mindanao? Shall we allow them to solve the problems of so-called narco-politics here in the Philippines ?

This is a matter of faith in the capability of conscious, politicized citizens to unite, not only to oppose militaristic approaches, but to strengthen and advance the continuing struggle for nationhood. This is what being Filipino is about. The pains of Apolinario Mabini and those who resisted US imperialism in the early 1900s until today should not go for naught. This is about building the nationalist consciousness of a people, or communities of people. We have not finished that struggle. Hopefully, we can do that in a nonviolent way—by having faith in a set of leaders.

Sovereignty is all about reforming society, government and our Armed Forces too, not allowing US military intervention to mess up our affairs, like it did in the 1900s in our own country, and during the Marcos dictatorship.

The Americans have fooled us several times already. Can we believe them now?

—DR. DANTE G. SIMBULAN JR., associate professor, De La Salle University Heath Sciences Campus, Dasmariñas, Cavite

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The WORLD

Editor **Luverne B. Gueco**

New phase of conflict in Mideast

JEBALIYA REFUGEE CAMP, Gaza Strip—The rumble of tanks and the crackle of gunfire in narrow, twisting alleyways are the hallmarks of a bloody new phase of the Israeli-Palestinian conflict: All-out warfare waged inside crowded Palestinian refugee camps.

In an assault that lasted into the early hours Tuesday, Israeli troops and tanks, backed by assault helicopters, stormed the biggest camp in the Palestinian territories: Jebaliya, where 100,000 Palestinians live crammed into a teeming warren of cement-block hovels at the northern tip of the Gaza Strip.

Israel says raids on the refugee camps, unleashed for the first time last month in the West Bank, are meant to smash weapons factories and put Palestinian militants on notice that they can find no safe haven anywhere.

But human rights activists—and those who live in the camps—say incursions like this one pose the greatest peril yet to Palestinian civilians, who already run a gantlet of daily dangers.

For Israelis, the worst carnage of the 17-month-old conflict has been caused by suicide bombings and mass shootings in their cities and towns; on the Palestinian side, military operations inside refugee camps have been a driving force behind recent jumps in the death toll. Eighteen people were killed during the three-hour incursion into Jebaliya, and more than 75 were wounded.

For all the force that was unleashed, the Israelis only pushed a few hundred meters into the camp. As tanks staged a three-pronged assault, leaving treadmarks on the narrow, rutted streets, hundreds of Palestinian gunmen took up positions in abandoned buildings and rooftops and began firing on troops and vehicles.

As the firefight intensified, people in the camp's cramped hovels did not know whether to stay put or try to run. Some huddled indoors in terror; others ran into the streets wearing only nightclothes. A few hastily hitched up the donkey carts that are a main form of transport in Gaza; many others fled on foot.

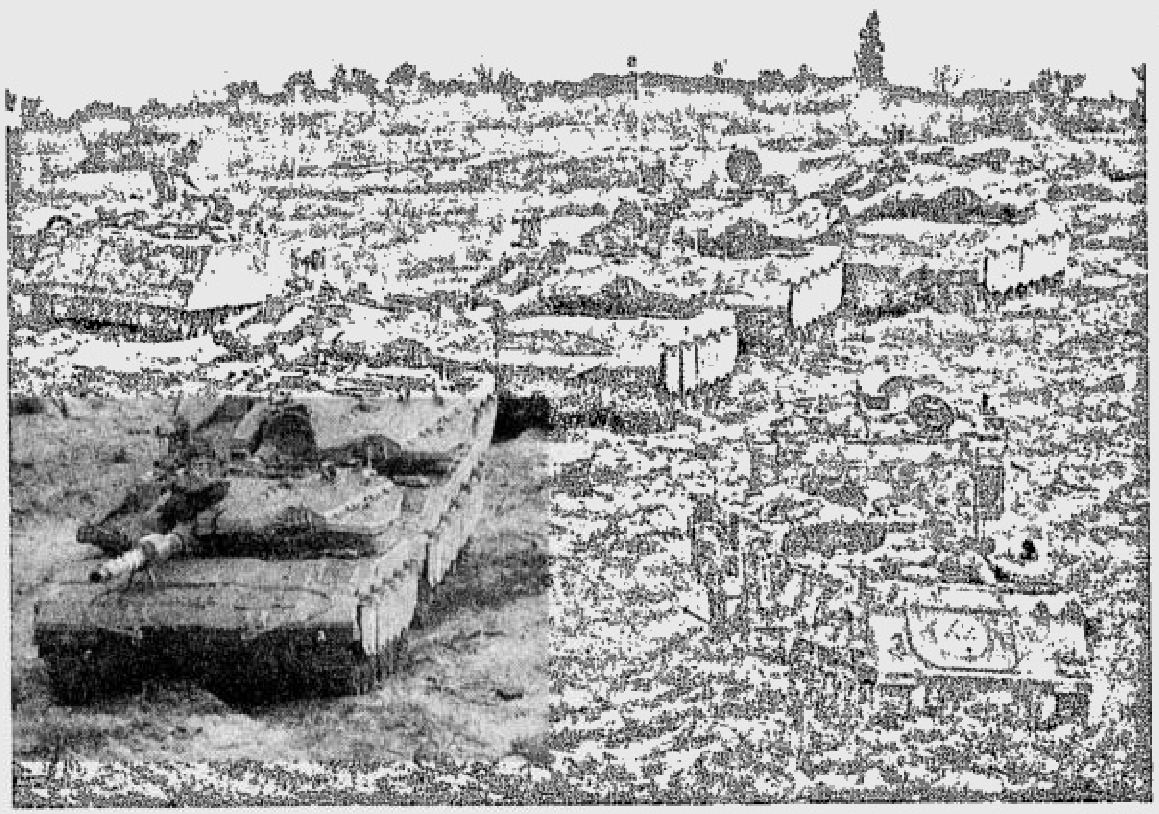
Schoolteacher Abdul Khader Ibrahim was on the telephone with a friend when he heard heavy machinegun fire start up only meters from his home. "I've got to get my children out of here!" he shouted.

One of the first air strikes hit the area's main transformer, plunging the camp into darkness. "They are killing us!" cried Laila Ayoub, 38, who grabbed her baby girl and ran to take shelter with relatives living outside the camp. She said helicopters rained down fire as she and others ran.

Like the other refugee camps scattered throughout Gaza and the West Bank, Jebaliya is a tinderbox of poverty, hardship and fury against Israel.

The people living in the camps are those who fled or were driven from their homes during Israel's 1948 war of independence, together with their descendants—a dispossession the Palestinians still refer to as "al naqba," or the catastrophe.

The Palestinians' first intifadah, or uprising, which began nearly 15 years ago, broke out in this camp and it remains a stronghold of Hams and other militant groups. *AP*



REUTERS

ISRAELI Army tanks and armored personnel carriers are positioned near the Jewish Nishanit settlement in the northern Gaza Strip after leaving from the Jabalia refugee camp on March 12.

Cheney under pressure from Arabs

SHARM EL-SHEIK, Egypt—US Vice President Dick Cheney is coming under pressure from Arab allies for more US involvement to end Israeli-Palestinian violence. They'd also like a lower US profile in challenging Iraq.

Cheney arrived in Egypt early Wednesday, the second stop on an 11-nation tour of the Middle East, and quickly headed off to visit US peacekeeping troops stationed nearby.

Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, like Jordan's King Abdullah II, has signaled opposition to any US-led effort to remove Saddam Hussein as Iraq's president.

Cheney was meeting with Mubarak in this Red Sea resort town after his visit with US peacekeepers.

Although he got a cordial welcome from Abdullah on his first stop, he was also told that expanding the terrorism war to Iraq could destabilize the region—and undermine gains in Afghanistan.

During a private meeting with Cheney, Abdullah "expressed hope for a solution to all outstanding problems with Iraq through dialogue and peaceful means," said a palace statement.

It also said Abdullah voiced "Jordan's concern from the repercussions of any possible strike on Iraq and the dangers of that on the stability and security of the region." Mubarak's view, conveyed during the Egyptian leader's trip this month to Washington, is that US stock in the Arab world—already damaged by the Bush administration's strong support for Israel—would sink further if Iraqis are killed in a US attack. *AP*

Ridge says US is on yellow alert

WASHINGTON—Unveiling a color-coded terrorism warning system, domestic security chief Tom Ridge said Tuesday the United States is on yellow alert—facing a "significant risk" of danger but not the highest stage.

The five-level system is a response to public complaints that broad terror alerts issued by the government since the Sept. 11 attacks raised alarm without providing useful guidance.

The lowest-status warning is green, followed by blue, yellow, orange and red as the perceived dangers intensify.

In a series of public events, Ridge outlined the stages of alert and how government agencies should respond:

- Green is a low risk of terrorist attack.
- Blue is a general risk, and agencies are asked to review and update emergency response procedures.
- Yellow is an "elevated condition," meaning there is a significant risk of attack. Increased surveillance of critical locations and implementing some emergency response plans are called for.
- Orange signifies a high risk of attack, meaning the government should coordinate necessary security efforts with armed forces or law enforcement agencies and take additional precautions at public events.
- Red means a "severe risk" of attack and may require the prepositioning of especially trained teams, closing public and government facilities and monitoring transportation systems. *AP*

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THE LANDMARK
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US-led coalition says operation a success

GARDEZ, Afghanistan—Advancing coalition forces claimed control Wednesday of the Shah-e-Kot valley in eastern Afghanistan, sweeping out all but a few small groups of al-Qaida and Taliban holdouts as allied troops worked their way through the warren of mountain caves.

The Afghan allies captured the region's tallest peak and several key villages, coalition forces said. The capture came after days of bombing by high-flying US B-1 bombers, which pounded al-Qaida and Taliban positions on a ridgeline that US officers dubbed "the whale."

"Probably (the next objective) is to make sure that everything in there is secure," said Maj. Bryan Hilferty, spokesperson for the 10th Mountain Division. "The operation, I think you could characterize it, as winding down."

The casualty toll since the battle began on March 2 stood at eight US Special Forces soldiers and three Afghan allied fighters.

The final push came after commander Zia Lodin moved in from the north while commander Gul Haider's forces moved in from the south. Hilferty said no more than 100 fighters were believed to still be in the area, the last remnants of a force that was once estimated at 600-700.

Afghan commanders in the area said they were trying to scour the regions labyrinth-like warren of caves, but that many of them had collapsed during the days of bombing. One commander with Haider's forces, Mohammed Qasim, said that the remaining holdouts were trying to escape.

"They're trying to slip away," Qasim said. "They're going in different directions in the mountains."

US forces also said they had fewer than 20 detainees.

"The al-Qaida and Taliban are free to surrender," he said.

"We'd love to have them surrender. But so far, they have all decided to die."

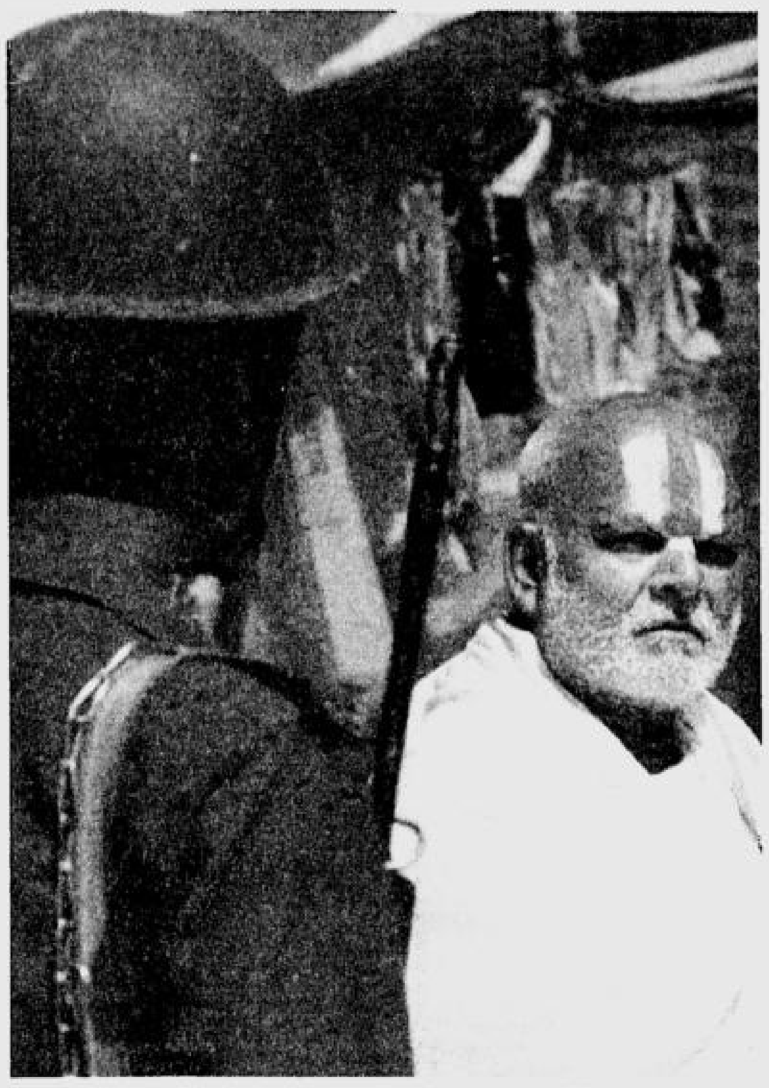
No more firing has been reported, Qasim said.

Afghan fighters loyal to commander Zia said they breached the first lines of al-Qaida and Taliban defenses and captured the main cave complex used by the fighters, but were slowed Tuesday by hostile fire and land mines.

Advancing Afghan troops found the bodies of seven foreign fighters Tuesday, according to an Afghan commander, Abdul Hanan. He said he was not sure whether they were Arabs or Pakistanis.

As American troops steadily combed the rough terrain, US officials rejected a suggestion by one of their Afghan allies that the remaining al-Qaida fighters might be allowed to go free.

"We are not going to stop the fighting to make any deals," said Lt. Col. Dave Lapan, spokesperson for the Pentagon in Washington. *AP*



A SADHU, or Hindu holy man, watches a paramilitary soldier on patrol in Ayodhya, India. AP

Mugabe wins fraudulent Zimbabwe election

HARARE, Zimbabwe—President Robert Mugabe won Zimbabwe's most bitter presidential election, unofficial results showed Wednesday, in a vote observers claimed was marred by irregularities and ruling party violence.

The results announced on state-owned radio showed a victory for Mugabe, whose race against former labor leader Morgan Tsvangirai presented the first real electoral challenge for the president since he led Zimbabwe to independence 22 years ago.

With 95 percent of districts reporting final results, Mugabe had about 56 percent of the votes, while Tsvangirai had 41 percent, government officials said. State radio said there were 1,637,642 votes for Mugabe and 1,185,793 for Tsvangirai.

Election officials said 3,130,913 people voted out of 5,647,812 registered.

"This is a runaway victory," Justice Minister Patrick Chinamasa said. "It was won on the issue of the land," he said, mentioning Mugabe's policy of seizing white-owned land and turning it over to landless blacks.

The opposition Movement for Democratic Change rejected the results.

"No sane person can say this is anything that comes even close to a free and fair election," David Coltart, an opposition member of parliament, said. He said "there are some really odd figures" from rural areas, where Mugabe traditionally does well.

Independent observers questioned the validity of the vote, saying it was tainted by violence, intimidation, confusion and the disenfranchisement of thousands of voters in the opposition stronghold of Harare. *AP*

High court rules against prayer ceremony near Shrine

NEW DELHI, India—India's Supreme Court on Wednesday ruled against Hindu nationalist demands to hold a symbolic prayer ceremony near the site of a razed 16th century Muslim mosque.

The ruling sets up a possible showdown between security forces and thousands of Hindu fundamentalists determined to hold a ceremony near the ruins of the Babri mosque on Friday.

"It's an attack on the Hindu religion," said Ramchandra Das, chair of a trust set up to build a temple on the disputed holy site.

Standing by the court's 1994 decision, a three-judge panel ruled that no religious ceremonies would be allowed near the disputed site or on the government-owned land around it, until the court determined whether Hindus or Muslims should own it.

The justices asked the government how it could assure religious riots would not break out if the ceremony were to go ahead.

Hearing a petition filed by Muslim-rights activist Mohammed Aslam, the bench ruled that no religious activities "of any kind by anyone" would be allowed on the land.

S.Q.R. Ilyas, a spokesperson for the All India Muslim Personal Law Board Committee, approved of the ruling, but called for calm.

"This has been our stand. There should be no ceremony until the dispute is finally decided by the court," he said. "This is no time to rejoice. We will stay calm."

Hindu priests and fundamentalists have insisted that no matter what the court ruled, they intend to pray near the ruins of the Babri mosque in the northern city of Ayodhya. The site is at the center of a centuries-old dispute between Hindus and Muslims.

The Hindus said they would dedicate stones or pillars that will be used in a temple they hope to build where the mosque once stood in the northern city of Ayodhya.

Das, chair of the Rama Temple Trust did not say whether Hindu activists still intended to defy the court order on Friday.

"What I'll do on the 15th, my actions will say," he said. "Until now, we have been abiding by the court orders."

Lawyers for Aslam expressed concern to the court that the religious ceremony would provoke religious violence.

Attorney General Soli Sorabjee countered this, saying an adequate number of security forces had been deployed in Ayodhya and that a symbolic prayer ceremony should be allowed on the government-owned, undisputed land near the disputed holy site.

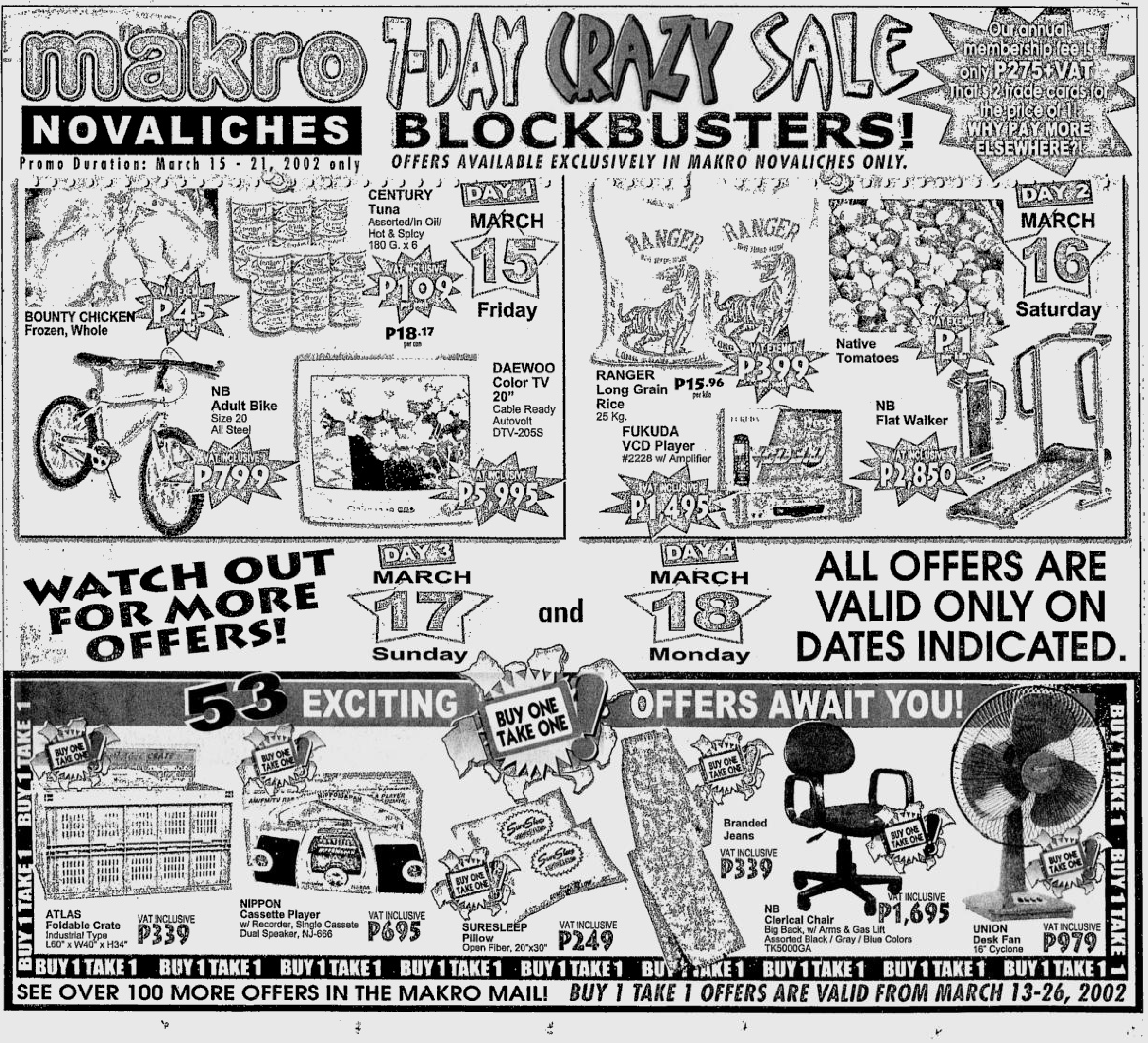
The bench rejected this, citing current tensions among Hindus and Muslims nationwide.

"We will not allow any (prayer ceremony) which will escalate the situation," said Justice G.B. Pattanaik, who also criticized the government for letting the dispute run on for years.

The mosque dispute is partially to blame for the religious violence that has engulfed the western state of Gujarat this month. More than 700 people have been killed in riots ignited when Muslims set fire to a train carrying Hindus returning from a pilgrimage to the holy site in Ayodhya.

Hindus went on a revengeful rampage, destroying Muslim businesses and burning Muslims alive. On Tuesday, rioting continued in northern Gujarat as Hindu mobs attacked Muslim homes and shops.

The US Embassy issued a travel warning that "strongly urged" Americans to avoid Ayodhya or its surrounding areas. *AP*



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Houston mother convicted of murder in drownings

HOUSTON—Andrea Yates, the 37-year-old housewife who admitted she drowned her five children in the bathtub, was convicted of murder by a jury that rejected her claim of insanity in just 3 1/2 hours.

Yates was found guilty Tuesday of two counts of capital murder covering the deaths of three of her children. She could be sentenced to death or to life in prison following the penalty phase that begins Thursday.

Standing between her attorneys, Yates showed little reaction as the judge read the verdict. Her husband, Russell, muttered "oh God" and buried his head in his hands, and some of Yates' relatives left the courtroom in tears.

The crime attracted widespread attention as a stunned public asked what could cause a mother to systematically kill her children.

It also raised new questions about the effects of postpartum depression, which Russell Yates and experts hired by the defense said Yates had struggled with for years.

Andrea Yates never testified. But her videotaped interviews with psychiatrists, her audiotaped confession to police and her emergency police call the day of the drownings all were played for jurors.

Deliberations began after prosecutors told the jury of eight women and four men that Yates, a former nurse, had thought about harming her children for years and ignored a doctor's orders in 1999 to refrain from having any more.

They said that even though Yates was mentally ill, she knew drowning her children was wrong.

"That's the key," prosecutor Kaylynn Williford said. "Andrea Yates knew right from wrong, and she made a choice on June 20 to kill her children deliberately and with deception."

The defense argued that she suffered from postpartum depression so severe that she had lost her ability for rational thought.

"We can't permit objective logic to be imposed on the actions of Andrea Yates," Parnham said. "She was so psychotic on June 20 that she absolutely believed what she was doing was the right thing to do." **AP**

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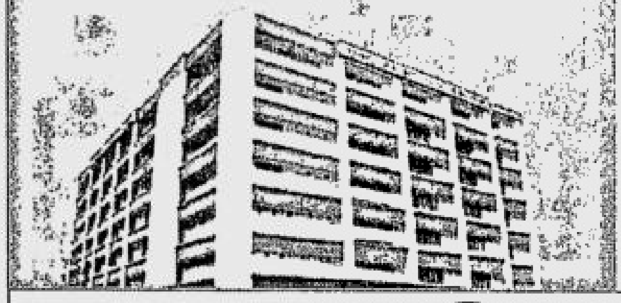

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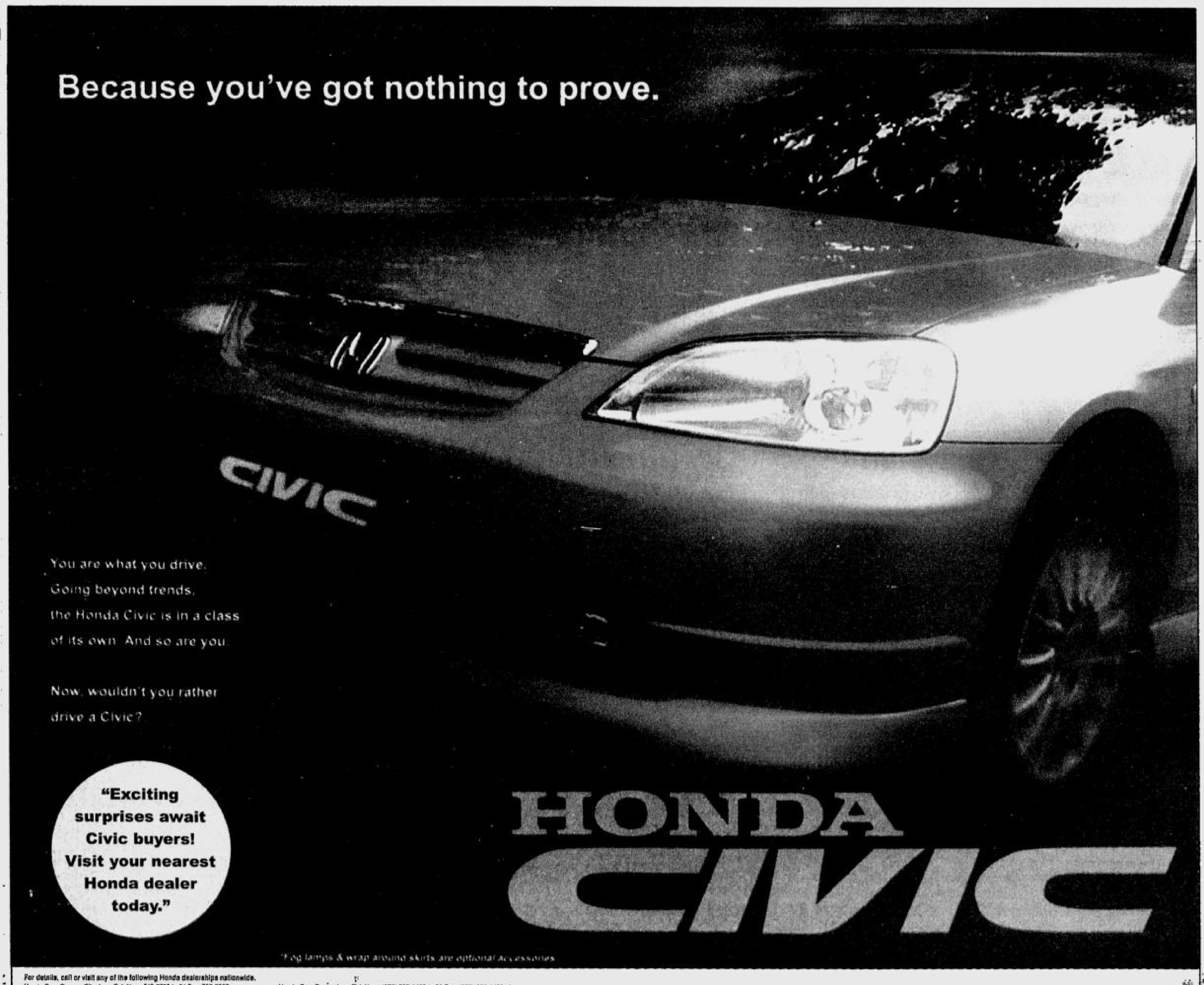
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WEATHER FORECAST

FORECAST: Eastern and Southern Luzon, Eastern Visayas and the whole of Mindanao will experience mostly cloudy skies with scattered rainshowers and isolated thunderstorms. The rest of the country will be partly cloudy.

SOURCE: PAGASA

Metro Manila	Cloudy with Rains	HI31° Lo 23°
Baguio	Partly Cloudy	HI 23° Lo 15°
Tuguegarao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 18°
Laoag	Partly Cloudy	HI 33° Lo 23°
Clark Zone	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tagaytay	Cloudy with Rains	HI 28° Lo 20°
Legazpi	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Calapan	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 21°
Iloilo/Bacolod	Partly Cloudy	HI 32° Lo 23°
Roxas	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 25°
Cebu	Partly Cloudy	HI 31° Lo 24°
Tacloban	Cloudy with Rains	HI 30° Lo 24°
Gen. Santos	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 23°
Zamboanga	Cloudy with Rains	HI 33° Lo 24°
Cagayan de Oro	Cloudy with Rains	HI 31° Lo 23°
Davao	Cloudy with Rains	HI 32° Lo 24°

Compiled by: Ray Leyesa, PDI Research/03/14/02

ROUNDUP

Dureza escapes death

DAVAO CITY—Presidential Assistant for Mindanao Jesus Dureza and his entourage narrowly escaped death when the 6-seat police plane they were riding in for Cot[illegible]ato City encountered engine trouble in mid-[illegible] around 11:30 a.m. yesterday. The Islander [illegible]ane had just taken off from the Davao International Airport when one of its engines conked out. Dureza told the INQUIRER that the pilot, whom he did not identify, barely managed to control the aircraft back to the DIA. "We were like acrobats," Dureza said, describing the harrowing experience. He said that before the engine developed trouble, there was an explosion. Despite the incident, Dureza proceeded to Cotabato City for a meeting with members of the Moro Islamic Liberation Front peace panel on board a helicopter owned by the National Power Corp.

Dennis Jay Santos, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Korean missionary nabbed

DAVAO CITY—Authorities arrested a Korean national early Wednesday after a raid on his apartment on McArthur Highway in Matina District. Jun Ho Choi, 41, an alleged missionary, yielded a .38 cal. revolver when elements of the Heinous Crime and Investigation Section (HCIS) of the Davao City Police Office searched his apartment. HCIS chief Senior Insp. Fulgencio Pavo said Choi had no documents to back up the legality of his firearm.

Anthony S. Allada, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Twister hits village

COTABATO CITY—A freak whirlwind descended on the farming village of Manarapan, Carmen, Cotabato, on Sunday, and sent residents to panic. Carmen Mayor Rogelio Taliño said nobody was hurt in the twister, but at least two houses were destroyed and several trees were uprooted. Taliño said the strong wind lasted for about a minute.

Charlie C. Señase, PDI Mindanao Bureau

Jail guards foil escape try

MALOLOS, Bulacan—Guards at the provincial jail here foiled the escape attempt of eight inmates on Monday. Jail guards arrested Ronald Malaggay, Gilberto Chico and Edmun Fernando, all charged with double murder, and four others identified as Domingo Reyes, Ignacio Ponio, Jimmy Ray Aguiluz and Alvin Arnaldo after they destroyed their cell's iron grills and the lock of the cell's hallway.

Carmela Reyes, PDI Central Luzon Desk

Hybrid rice demo

TUGUEGARAO CITY—To promote hybrid rice technology among Cagayan farmers, agencies led by the Department of Agriculture and local governments launched a seven-month field demonstration of hybrid rice. Gumercindo Lasam, regional agriculture director, said they have established 300 demonstration projects in 23 towns in Isabela, the biggest rice-producing province in Cagayan Valley. Among the agencies involved in the project are the Philippine Rice Research Institute and the National Irrigation Administration.

Estanislao Caldez, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau

Art exhibit for women

THE BULACAN Watercolor Society (BWS) in coordination with the Gender and Development Office in Angeles City will sponsor an art exhibit today until tomorrow at the Angeles City Hall lobby. The exhibit, dubbed "An Art Exhibit for Women's Cause," is for the benefit of the women sector in Malolos and Angeles City. The activity will feature the works of Nemi Macapugay, Danny Pangan, Jesus Gavieres, Rolly de Jesus, Kathy S. Jose and other members of the BWS. The exhibit will be held simultaneously with a flea market, which will be participated in by the organized women of Angeles City.

Power barge remains

CALAPAN CITY—There is a big chance for power barge 102 of the National Power Corp. to remain in Puerto Galera until it is replaced by a land-based power plant. This was learned from provincial administrator Mike Rivera who asked the Puerto Galera council to allow the extension of the barge's stay in Minolo Cove, Puerto Galera. The town council earlier passed a resolution for the removal of the barge and another resolution against the extension of its stay.

Donna Virola, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Case vs priest killer

SAN PABLO CITY—The lawyers of slain Mabitac, Laguna parish priest Fr. Arsenio Plata Jr. are ready to file a case of robbery with homicide against his suspected killer. Fr. Rene Eriga, president of the San Pablo Presbyteral Council, said some priests, however, expressed reservation on the decision to zero in on the lighter case and its confinement only to the testimony of the jailed suspect. If suspect Alvin de la Peña, 25, is convicted by the court of robbery with homicide, he could be punished with either lethal injection or lifetime imprisonment.

Romulo O. Ponte, PDI Southern Luzon Bureau

Murder of Baguio students still an open case, say cops

BAGUIO CITY—The Criminal Investigation and Detection Group of the Philippine National Police continues to be very interested in the double murder case of two graduates of the University of the Philippines College Baguio.

Senior Supt. Generoso Bonifacio, CIDG Cordillera chief, said there was a misunderstanding about the CIDG's use of the phrase "solved case" in the abduction and murder of Giancarlo Leung and Tihani Tingal.

"It's a matter of semantics," Bonifacio said.

"There are three pillars of criminal justice in the country. For the law enforcement level, we investigate and gather evidence and refer the matter to the prosecution if there is a probable cause to file a case," Bonifacio said. "When we accomplish these, we regard the case as solved in our level. We say the case is closed on our level when we hand the warrant of arrest to the suspects."

Bonifacio said it is only when they declare a case "closed" that they can regard it as "finished."

This is when a case has gone through the courts and has been returned to the law enforcement agency for authorities to effect the arrest warrant.

He said Charles Leung, Giancarlo's father, probably based his assumption on the case's status on the 49th anniversary souvenir pamphlet of the CIDG which included the Leung-Tingal case among the solved cases of the agency.

Bonifacio stressed that the investigation of the case is still ongoing.

Cases of kidnapping with homicide and car theft were filed against Raymund Testado, Henry Sison, Ronald Domalina and two other suspects before the regional trial courts in Villasis, Pangasinan, and Baguio City.

According to the CIDG, the group belonged to the "Magic 5," a supposed breakaway group of the Samahang Ilocano fraternity.

Bonifacio said the case hit a snag when Judge Rosario Cruz of the Villasis regional trial court was transferred to Manila and replaced by Judge Teodorico Bauson.

The prosecution filed an urgent motion to re-open the presentation of their evidence but the Supreme Court has yet to act on it.

Meanwhile, two of the accused were allowed to post bail.

Testado posted a bail bond of P150,000 while Sison posted a property bond that was approved on Nov. 8, 2001. The two also posted a bail bond worth P160,000 each for the theft case involving Leung's missing car.

Domalina was transferred from the Urdaneta City jail to the Baguio City jail as he could not afford to post bail. ***Frank Cimatu, PDI Northern Luzon Bureau***

Samar folk to hold rites for Magellan 'discovery' of RP

By Vicente S. Labro
PDI Visayas Bureau

TACLOBAN CITY—The people of Eastern Samar are set to commemorate on Saturday the 481st anniversary of the "discovery" of the Philippines on the very same islet where Ferdinand Magellan and his men landed in 1521—Homonhon Island.

Although the anniversary will still be on March 16, residents of Eastern Samar and nearby places always start the festivities a few days earlier.

For this year, the celebration kicked off with a sportsfest in Barangay Pagbabangnan, Homonhon Island, Guiuan town. Sponsored by the Sangguniang Kabataan of Guiuan town, the games started yesterday and would culminate on Friday.

On Friday, a medical and dental mission will be held at the community hospital of Barangay Casuguran, also on Homonhon Island. This activity is sponsored by the Eastern Samar provincial health office, the Southern Samar General Hospital, the Guiuan health unit and the municipal government of Guiuan.

Also on Friday in Barangay Casuguran, a civil registration and mass wedding will be held in the morning. In the evening of the same day, a fellowship dubbed as "*Karisyuhan han Anibersaryo* (Revelry during the Anniversary) " will be held and will be participated in by guests, government officials and residents.

Rep. Marcelino Libanan of Eastern Samar's lone district is the guest speaker of the commemorative program on March 16, which will be held at the Magallanes Point in Barangay Pagbabangnan.

During the same program, acting Vice Gov. Annaliza Gonzales-Kwan, chair of the tourism committee, will present the plans for the proposed Magallanes Historical and Recreational Park.

Acting Gov. Federico Suyot Sr. will also deliver a message while Guiuan Mayor Cornelio Sison will introduce Representative Libanan as guest speaker.

PDI MINDANAO BUREAU

EARNING A LIVING
The scarcity of regular-paying jobs forces many people, like this street musician in Davao City, to be creative and fight the odds to continue surviving.

PCGG hit for blocking transfer of land

HOUSE Deputy Minority leader Rep. Enrique "Tet" Garcia yesterday scored the Presidential Commission on Good Government for blocking the transfer of sequestered pieces of property of the Bataan Shipyard and Engineering Co. (Baseco) to the Bataan provincial government.

In a statement, Garcia said the PCGG should adhere to a June 1989 resolution of the Regional Trial Court of Bataan ordering the consolidation of titles on the Baseco property in favor of Bataan.

He said that the RTC ruling upheld that the tax delinquency sale of the pieces of property by the provincial government conformed to both substantive and procedural requirements of the law.

Garcia accused the PCGG, Baseco, Bataan Gov. Leonardo Roman and several judges for allegedly conniving to deprive the provincial government of what it legally owns.

"Why does Bataan continue to suffer because of the orchestrated actuations of officials from PCGG, Baseco, Roman and several judges that are patently fraudulent, void and dilatory?" he said.

He said that after the 1986 Edsa Revolution, the PCGG sequestered the shipyard but as a result of real estate tax delinquencies, the province of Bataan applied for the sale of the Baseco property at public auction.

The PCGG then filed an injunction at the Sandiganbayan to prevent the auction that the court denied in February 1988.

Tighter security put around Malampaya gas project

By Raul C. Dancel

PUERTO PRINCESA, Palawan—With close to P200 billion at stake, the government is tightening security around the Camago-Malampaya natural gas project in Palawan.

In a news conference here, Major Gen. Manuel Carranza, Western Command chief, said an extra Marine battalion was deployed last month around Palawan to secure facilities put up by Shell Philippines Exploration BV to extract natural gas from the Camago-Malampaya field.

The security arrangement covers the offshore platform, subsea wells, flow lines and calm buoy.

"We are providing more security measures and a better security force to protect the facilities," Carranza told reporters.

"The deployment was done because we found that our forces in Palawan are not enough. Over the last two years, there has been a resurgence in the activities of terrorists," he said.

Carranza said the Western Command has "practically doubled" its size, with more soldiers and equipment deployed near Camago-Malampaya.

Apart from an extra battalion of veteran Marines, the Western Command currently has three fast-crafts donated by Shell and a number of helicopters and aircraft, including two S211 jets and two OV10 bombers, stationed in Palawan.

The Palawan provincial government has already declared the areas around Camago-Malampaya an exclusion zone.

Vessels are prohibited from entering an area within a kilometer off Camago-Malampaya, and aircraft are barred from flying over the project.

Camago-Malampaya is currently the country's most vital energy project.

Starting October this year, the first volume of natural gas will be extracted from the field.

A 501-kilometer underwater pipeline will bring in condensed natural gas to an offshore refinery in Santa Rita, Batangas.

The $4.8-billion investment of Shell, considered to be the world's biggest natural gas project, is projected to extract 200 barrels a day of natural gas.

Camago-Malampaya will give Palawan almost P1.2 billion in revenues and another P8.1 billion for the national government for 20 years. Palawan will start getting its share from the project revenue in 2003.

Dumaguete port workers go on strike over CBA violations

By Alex V. Pal
PDI Visayas Bureau

DUMAGUETE CITY—More than 100 workers belonging to the Cipres Stevedoring and Arrastre Inc. Employees Union-Associated Labor Union (CAISAIEU-ALU) went on strike yesterday to press for the full implementation of their Collective Bargaining Agreement.

The strikers set up what they called "moving pickets" at the entrance and exit gates of the pier area in Barangay Looc here.

But port officials said the union's protest action only had a "minimal" effect on port operations because only a few vessels docked at the port yesterday.

Sopriano Sabanal, union vice president, said they were demanding the implementation of the employees' benefits under the CBA such as emergency and union leaves, vacation leaves, sick leaves and paternity leaves. But the union has no complaints regarding their salary, which is P185 a day.

Sabanal also accused the CISAI management of union busting, by fielding workers who are not employees of CISAI.

The union also accused the management of outright suspension and dismissal of union members, the non-remittance of Social Security System contributions and of refusing to have labor-management conferences.

Vivianne Cipres, CISAI acting president and general manager, called the allegations "blatant lies."

She said they have all the documentary evidence to show that the company paid SSS contributions and granted medical benefits and other leave credits as mandated by their CBA.

"These issues raised by the union are non-strikable grounds and the strike is in violation of a 'no strike clause' in our CBA," Cipres said.

She said the strike is actually a smokescreen of the union to pursue their plan to take over the arrastre and stevedoring services at the port.

Cipres gave the INQUIRER a copy of a letter signed by the CISAIEU-ALU addressed to Alfonso Cusi, Philippine Ports Authority general manager dated Jan 29.

The letter, in part, said "we are informing you in advance of our intention of creating a true and genuine Worker's Enterprise who (sic) will be controlled and managed by the workers themselves."

The union, Cipres said, is actually being manipulated by a group, which intends to take over stevedoring and arrastre operations. She said this group has very strong and influential political connections.

Cipres, however, did not name the politicians behind this group, but, she said, "their intentions are very clear."

INQUIRER *Southern Luzon*

Editor **Jun Bandayrel** ◈ *Bureau Chief* **Floreño G. Solmirano**

Dos Palmas reopens for 'Puerturismo'

THE TOURISM industry in Palawan tries a comeback with the reopening of the Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort off Puerto Princesa City. JOFELLE P. TESORIO

By Jofelle P. Tesorio
Puerto Princesa City

"WE shall never allow terrorism to ruin our dreams." This was the strong statement of Ivan Spencer Lim, general manager of Dos Palmas Arreceffi Island Resort in Puerto Princesa City, during the tourist destination's reopening on March 8.

Lim is optimistic that the resort will bounce back "stronger than before." The place was closed for six months after Abu Sayyaf bandits took 20 of its guests and personnel hostage on May 27 last year.

The reopening of Dos Palmas also signals an increase in tourism arrivals in the city and in Palawan. The resort warmly welcomed its first batch of paying guests.

According to Lim, Dos Palmas already has 40 percent bookings for the Holy Week. He expects the rate to increase as Air Philippines confirmed additional flights on March 28 and 31.

Tourism Secretary Richard Gordon, who flew in directly from Cebu in a chartered aircraft, graced the island resort's reopening.

Gordon said he never believed that Dos Palmas would not reopen. He cited the case of the Sipadan Island in Malaysia that had experienced a similar hostage-taking incident.

"It (Sipadan) also closed for six months and when it reopened, tourists came like nothing happened," he said.

Gordon stressed that what the tourism industry should show now is an assurance that tourists are secured.

Security

Western Command chief Maj. Gen. Manuel Carranza said security has been tightened throughout the island.

The resort guards have undergone paramilitary training. "The guards are not there only for show. They are armed and dangerous to the enemies," Carranza said. "The incident last year taught everyone not to be complacent anymore."

According to him, security is also reinforced with the presence of Marine battalions in the city but in no way would it look like Basilan.

Regular troops will supervise and administer the Cafgus (Citizens' Armed Forces Geographical Unit). This, the Wescom chief said, is an assurance that tourists are safe and that the incident last year was just an isolated one.

Gov. Joel Reyes and Mayor Dennis Socrates also gave similar assurances on the safety of tourists in the province.

Carranza explained that rules of engagement have been set in confronting unwanted visitors. The rules will also be followed in other resorts.

Any vessel can no longer approach or dock, especially at night, without clearance from the Wescom. If the vessel acts suspiciously, Wescom men will disable it immediately.

Bandits can no longer escape, Carranza said.

The local government units have established communication links with Wescom and every resort. Especially trained individuals have been designated by the city government to become tourist police.

Reopening rites

Dos Palmas reopened in a traditional way on the 8th day of the month. According to Chinese belief, it is the luckiest number to start a business or an endeavor.

A 10-minute fireworks display believed to drive away evil spirits was held.

Resident manager Lyba Godio, wearing a red blouse for good luck, welcomed the guests, composed mainly of key tourism players and journalists.

With a reinvigorated spirit, Dos Palmas also opened the first complete spa facility in Palawan. Guests can now enjoy aromatic facial treatment, body scrub, hair and scalp therapy, milk bath and foot spa treatment at affordable prices.

A foot spa costs P395 while massage services cost P450 to P600.

Mitu's Tribe, a local group, and musical artist Cynthia Alexander performed during a dinner party by the poolside.

Dos Palmas has increased its occupancy rate to only 20 percent, but it maintained its day tour, which costs P1,200 and covers land and boat transfers, kayaking and snorkeling activities, and a buffet dinner.

The resort also adopted a new, dynamic logo, which shows an image of a tropical fish that looks like a coconut tree in another angle. The coconut symbolizes endurance, strength, life and growth—being steadfast, innovative and versatile. It also means flora or plant.

The fish symbolizes energy and marine life—being active, pristine, dynamic, resilient and representative of plant or animal.

A Palawan alphabet is drawn on the body of the fish/coconut that brings in mystery, distinctness, creativity, uniqueness of heritage and culture.

With all these in place, as what the mayor said, "Puerturismo (Puerto and tourism) will rise exactly where it fell."

Love brimming over at apostolate house

By Romulo O. Ponte
San Pablo City

"FOR I was hungry and you gave me food; I was thirsty and you gave me drink; I was a stranger and you welcomed me; naked and you clothed me . . . as often as you did it to one of my least brothers (and sisters), you did it for me" (Mt. 25:31-46).

THIS biblical injunction literally moved the people behind the creation of the Nazareth Bahay Pag-ibig home for the poor, abandoned, sick, aged and dying.

The center's humble beginnings date back to the time of Catholic priest Mardeo Reyes, 45, of the Diocese of San Pablo, who shortly after his ordination on Dec. 14, 1989 started picking up elderly beggars, poor and sickly vagabonds, abandoned persons and neglected "eyesores" in the city and Laguna province.

At first, he gathered them under a borrowed shelter and provided them their basic needs.

Reyes started the apostolate "without specific sources of funding and investments, (but) Nazareth Bahay Pag-ibig continues to minister to God's abandoned, sick, aged, disabled, poor and elderly."

"How this came to be is a resounding proof of God's Divine Providence," said Msgr. Domingo Dolleton, vicar general and parish priest of the San Pablo Cathedral.

The Nazareth Bahay Pag-ibig house is found at the rear of the cathedral.

Volunteers

Clen Dolosa was one of the 11 pioneering volunteers who helped Reyes literally wash, bathe, feed, care for the sick and bury with dignity the dead elderly.

Her dedication to the apostolate, Dolosa said, was designed by providence when her father Jesus, 63, was among the first residents of the house.

Her father, too, was the first to die there and to be given a solemn Christian burial by her family and other relatives, with Reyes administering the funeral and blessing rites.

Receiving an allowance of only P1,000 monthly, Dolosa said "I will stay here and continue to serve. It is not the money that motivates me to offer my life here but my love and concern for the poor, sick and abandoned in our society."

She appealed to relatives of the inpatients to visit their loved ones at the Nazareth Bahay Pag-ibig, many of whom are already old and weak.

The apostolate house relies only on donations for its upkeep. Since it began 10 years ago, it has thrived on volunteer services and charity assistance from people who share their money, time, service or resource.

Solicitations in behalf of the Bahay Pag-ibig are strictly prohibited.

At present, eight resident volunteers take care of the basic needs of the occupants.

Dolleton said "countless volunteers contribute their time, treasures and talents. Our resident volunteers, doctors, nurses, nuns, seminarians and members of other sects are among the many who render unselfish service to our residents. They are our heroes."

The home caters to all kinds of people, regardless of belief or color.

Beneficiaries

Since it was established on Oct. 2, 1991, the house has already admitted 207 inmates from Mindanao, the Visayas and Luzon, particularly Southern Tagalog and Bicol.

Sixty-seven have already died and have been given dignified Christian burials, 41 have returned to their relatives, 19 have been transferred to other institutions, 33 have been given temporary shelter, 30 are still residents, and 17 have escaped, apparently because of boredom or loneliness.

In his 10th anniversary message, Reyes said: "It is only by God's grace that we were able to celebrate the anniversary of the Nazareth Bahay Pag-ibig. Left by ourselves, we could not accomplish anything."

"Jesus is the only and true treasure we must keep in our hearts. In the spirit of the house, the Divine Providence and loving service, let us continue to serve Jesus through our needy brothers and sisters," he said.

Bishop Francisco C. San Diego praised the unique and deeply Christian goal of the shelter and its volunteers. "May you carry out your work not for your own glory but for the greater glory of God. May each of you be a selfless servant of Jesus who worked through humble service and total self-giving."

Lay servant Rowena B. Valdellon, head of the volunteers, said "10 years seem a long time ago and yet in God's time it is always now. So that when we serve the poor, abandoned, sick, disabled and dying elderly, God is there, beholding us."

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February 3 - April 30, 2002

mechanics:

1. Complete the crossword puzzle which can be found in PAGE 10 of the daily issues of CDN starting Sunday, February 3, 2002.
2. Clip it together with one CDN masthead within the promo period and a piece of paper with your name, address, telephone number and signature.
3. Put it in a used envelope and drop in drop boxes located at the following or send/mail to:
   CEBU DAILY NEWS
   18-15 Escario St., Cebu City
   or
   Metro Gaisano (Ayala)
   Near Supermarket
   Mall Entrance

   CDN Circulation Office
   Warehouse 1, Menzi Compund
   Pajo, Lapulapu City
4. Promo is open to all CDN advertisers, readers and subscribers.
5. First raffle entry to be picked during the draw with the correct answer wins the cash prize on the weekly and grand raffle draws.
6. Weekly winners will receive P10,000.00 and the grand draw winner will win P50,000.00. One winner will be drawn during the weekly raffle draws.
7. Non-winning entries during the weekly draw are automatically qualified to be part of the grand raffle draw in April 30, 2002.
8. Entries of the winners during the weekly draw are excluded during the Grand Raffle Draw in April. However, they can send unlimited number of entries within the promo period.
9. CDN complimentary copies are not valid for the promotion.
10. All employees and authorized or exclusive dealers of CDN up to the second degree of consanguinity or affinity are disqualified from joining the promo.
11. Weekly draw dates:
   February 8
   February 15
   February 22
   March 1
   March 8
   March 15
   March 22
   April 1
   April 5
   April 12
   April 19
   April 26
   Grand raffle draw - April 30
12. Deadline for submission of entries for the Grand Raffle Draw is at 12:00 noon on April 26, 2002.
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14. If the prize is not claimed within 60 days after the draw, it will be forfeited in favor of Cebu Daily News.

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ETERNAL PLANS, INC.

21 Years of Securing the Filipino's Future

Since its inception in 1981, Eternal Plans has never ceased to pursue its goal of securing and uplifting the lives of the Filipinos. Through its mass-oriented and affordable life, pension and education plans, it has made pre-need products available not just to thousands but to millions of people nationwide.

Now, after 21 years, with over P3 Billion in assets, Eternal Plans has remained faithful in its commitment to fulfill its mission of building more future and fulfilling more dreams, striving to give only the best products and services to its planholders.

As we mark another successful year of providing quality social services to the Filipino people, we pay tribute to the men and women who made Eternal Plans one of the most progressive and leading pre-need plan companies in the country today. Through their sheer courage, perseverance and dedication, Eternal Plans emerged victorious amidst the political and economic storm that has engulfed the nation during the past year. Indeed, with their unwavering commitment to serve the people, Eternal Plans will always be at the forefront of the struggle to alleviate the social condition of the Filipino people.

ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

Grand Ballroom
Century Park Hotel
14 March 2002
6:00 PM

Guest Speaker:
Hon. Lilia R. Bautista
SEC Chairperson

MESSAGES

I convey my warmest greetings to the board of directors, officers and staff of **Eternal Plans, Inc.** as you celebrate your *21st Anniversary*. Congratulations also to this year's top sales producers who are being honored today on your Awards Night.

Pre-need companies, through diverse products and services, enable people to prepare for future needs. They provide financial security and support for retirement, sending children to college, and even providing memorial honors to the departed. The industry's impressive growth the past year shows that, for most Filipino families, pre-need plans have become indispensable.

An integral part of our bid to defeat poverty is economic development, with conscious bias in favor of the poor and disadvantaged. Towards this end, we want to institutionalize means by which ordinary people can save and prepare for life's eventualities. With your diverse pre-need products and services, you share with the people the benefits of development and help them uplift their lives.

I trust that the men and women of Eternal Plans Inc., as exemplified by the company's top sales producers, will persevere in their commitment to give our people better access to life's basic needs through the company's pre-need services.

Again, congratulations to this year's Annual Awardees, and may this event inspire you to render better service.

Mabuhay!

GMArroyo
GLORIA MACAPAGAL-ARROYO

I send my warm congratulations to Eternal Plans Inc. on your 21st Anniversary and the 2002 Annual Awards Night honoring its top sales producers for the past year. Events like these are occasions to give thanks to God. They are also moments to give direction to the future by continuing a legacy of love and service. The volume of transactions closed by your sales force led by today's Annual Awardees, attest to your company's strong determination to help our people secure their future needs for a more comfortable and confident tomorrow.

I impart my paternal blessings as you look forward to more years of fruitful and loving service. Always imbue your work with honesty, truthfulness and love, and you will definitely bear lasting fruits and rewards.

God bless you always!

+Jaime Card. Sin
JAIME CARDINAL SIN, D.D.
Archbishop of Manila

My warmest greetings and congratulations to Eternal Plans, Inc. as you celebrate your 21st Anniversary and Annual Awards Night to honor the most outstanding members of your sales force.

Anniversaries and annual awards are truly inspiring events in the corporate life of any business organization. The higher the number of anniversaries for a company, the stronger and more stable it grows, and the better assured of its continued existence and growth. Awards for the excellent performance by exemplary members of the workforce, on the other hand, are encouragement for the rest of their fellow workers to perform as well if not better to deserve the same recognition.

We are all aware that at this particular point, business organizations worldwide are still recovering from the effects of the financial crises that hit economies in both developed and developing countries. The corporate determination to hurdle these setbacks finds joyful expression in the enthusiastic celebration of a company's anniversary, such as the 21st year of the founding of Eternal Plans, Inc. The Annual Awards for top sales producers, on the other hand, recognize and reward the spirit of cooperation and support of company goals that fuel the accomplishments of the awardees.

I hope that as Eternal Plans, Inc. celebrates more anniversaries in the future, you will never waver in your resolute push for leadership in the pre-need industry. May you also be blessed through the years with achievement-oriented workers such as your outstanding sales executives, associates and other personnel being honored today.

Thank you and *Mabuhay!*

JOSE ISIDRO N. CAMACHO
Secretary
Department of Finance

Congratulations to Eternal Plans, Inc. on its 21st anniversary and to the company's top sales producers for a job well done. It gives us great pleasure to acknowledge hard work and productivity in these trying times.

Thank you for the untiring efforts of companies like Eternal Plans, Filipinos now enjoy the benefits of a secured future through a wide range of pre-need products that answer the needs of every Filipino. We in government can only complement your contribution to society by initiating measures and policies that will further improve regulation and strengthen the industry. Together, we believe that we will be able to render service that will truly benefit the Filipino people.

We reiterate our support for your company and the industry as a whole. More power and more success to your future endeavors.

Lilia R. Bautista
LILIA R. BAUTISTA
Chairperson
Securities and Exchange Commission

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21ST ANNUAL AWARDS NIGHT

2001 SALES ACHIEVERS

ANNUAL AWARDEES

Regular Sales

Area Manager Category

CARMELITA L. PEREZ
1st Place
Baliuag

NICOLAS P. OPEÑA
2nd Place
Sto. Tomas

BENIGNA A. UMALI
3rd Place
Los Baños

District Manager Category

ELIZA S. AQUINO
1st Place
Baliuag

REMEDIOS R. MALABANAN
2nd Place
Sto. Tomas

MA. AVIS REGINA A. UMALI
3rd Place
Los Baños

ANTHONY RONALD T. VELAYO
4th Place
Bacolod

Sales Counselor Category

ANTONIO C. AQUINO, JR.
1st Place
Baliuag

PAULINO A. UMALI, JR.
2nd Place
Los Baños

ANNA KATRINA B. CORAL
3rd Place
Butuan

RAYMOND T. VELAYO
4th Place
Bacolod

LILA FLOR P. ANIB
5th Place
Cebu

MICHAEL FRANCIS C. CHUA
6th Place
España

BRIGETTE O. BRETANA
7th Place
Bangar

RONALDO B. HIZON
8th Place
Bataan

RODEMIA G. ORIN
9th Place
Olongapo

CHAIRMAN'S CUP AWARDEES

Regular Sales

Area Manager Category

CARMELITA L. PEREZ
1st Place
Baliuag

NICOLAS P. OPENA
2nd Place
Sto. Tomas

BENIGNA A. UMALI
3rd Place
Los Baños

ALICIA C. JAKOSALEM
4th Place
San Pedro

District Manager Category

ELIZA S. AQUINO
1st Place
Baliuag

RAMON B. DEL FIERRO
2nd Place
Olongapo

REMEDIOS R. MALABANAN
3rd Place
Sto. Tomas

ANTHONY RONALD T. VELAYO
4th Place
Bacolod

SARAH F. RONQUILLO
5th Place
Los Baños

Sales Counselor Category

ANNA KATRINA B. CORAL
1st Place
Butuan

ANTONIO C. AQUINO, JR.
2nd Place
Baliuag

RODEMIA G. ORIN
3rd Place
Olongapo

RAYMOND T. VELAYO
4th Place
Bacolod

PAULINO A. UMALI, JR.
5th Place
Los Baños

MIRIAM O. CORONA
6th Place
Sto. Tomas

SUZETTE G. TOLENTINO
7th Place
Sto. Tomas

BRIGETTE O. BRETANA
8th Place
Bangar

ADORACION T. MENDOZA
9th Place
Sto. Tomas

MICHAEL FRANCIS C. CHUA
10th Place
España

TREASURER'S CHRISTMAS CHEERS AWARDEES

Regular Sales

Area Manager Category

BENIGNA A. UMALI
1st Place
Los Baños

CAEMELITA L.-PEREZ
2nd Place
Baliuag

District Manager Category

ELIZA S. AQUINO
1st Place
Baliuag

REMEDIOS R. MALABANAN
2nd Place
Sto. Tomas

FLOR ANTHONY P. ANIB
3rd Place
Cebu

MA. AVIS REGINA A. UMALI
4th Place
Los Baños

RICARDO A. AGUILAR
5th Place
Biñan

Sales Counselor Category

LILIA FLOR P. ANIB
1st Place
Cebu

PAULINO A. UMALI, JR.
2nd Place
Los Baños

ANTONIO C. AQUINO, JR.
3rd Place
Baliuag

RONALDO B. HIZON
4th Place
Bataan

BRIGETTE O. BRETANA
5th Place
Bangar

RAYMOND T. VELAYO
6th Place
Bacolod

MICHAEL FRANCIS C. CHUA
7th Place
España

FILOMENO T. GULFIN
8th Place
Angono

RUEL O. SURESCA
9th Place
Bacolod

RAMONA B. SAN JUAN
10th Place
Solano

Institutional Sales

Area Manager Category

BERNARDO M. MALQUED
1st Place
Agoo
CHAIRMAN'S CUP

District Manager Category

NADZ R. DE JESUS
1st Place
Agoo
CHAIRMAN'S CUP

Sales Counselor Category

SARAH F. RONQUILLO
1st Place
Agoo
ANNUAL CONTEST
CHAIRMAN'S CUP

Sales Counselor Category

TISA T. RODRIGUEZ
1st Place
Gingoog
TREASURER'S
CHRISTMASCHEERS

Lakbay-Saya sa Singapore

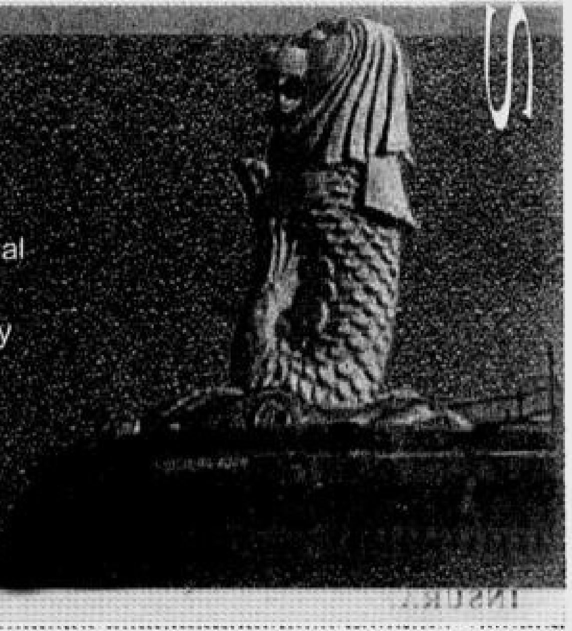
•The grandeur of Eternal's celebration of sales excellence for its top sales producers will not be complete without the great holiday treat for the awardees.

•This year, all the awardees will have the rare chance to discover Singapore's rich mixture of living cultures and traditions intertwined with modernity.

•During the four-day travel galore, the top achievers shall have the day of their lives as they will be treated like real "VIPs" and dignitaries.

•They will experience the unexpected and unconventional ways of having wholesome fun in this vibrant, cosmopolitan "lion-city of Asia".

•"LAKBAY SAYA sa SINGAPORE" promises to be a delightful and memorable grand experience for all the awardees.



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Estrada to Davide: Quit

From page A1

Estrada indicated that he would reengage the services of his dismissed defense counsels if his conditions were met. "I still haven't lost trust in my original defense lawyers; they we're the best," he said.

In a statement, Estrada's political party, the Partido ng Masang Pilipino, explained that Estrada wanted to clarify that only "specific individuals in charge of the country's justice system are to be blamed for his decision to dismiss the services of his defense lawyers" and for his losing "faith in getting fair and impartial trial."

His new tack came after it became clear that he could neither leave for medical treatment in the United States nor go into exile.

President Macapagal-Arroyo said Monday that she would not countenance Estrada's vilification of the courts and his alleged attempts to bring his case to the streets. Ms Macapagal then joined leaders of Congress in calling on Estrada to confine his cause within the ambit of the Sandiganbayan.

A pro-Estrada group yesterday took the former President's demand to the streets.

The Union of the Masses for Democracy and Justice (UMDJ) staged a rally near the Supreme Court to demand the resignation of Davide, Panganiban and Carpio, who the group said had formed a "political Mafia" in the tribunal.

After the rally they repaired to Max's Restaurant on Orosa Street in Ermita, Manila, for lunch and a press conference.

At the press conference, Jesus Crispin Remulla, PMP spokesperson, said the opposition might also move for the justices' impeachment for "culpable violation" of the Constitution when they voted to legitimize the Macapagal administration. He said the decision was "not based on facts."

Impeachment

In the House of Representatives, Minority Leader Carlos Padilla confirmed that an impeachment complaint against the Supreme Court justices was submitted to the minority group last week. It was prepared by lawyer Crispin T. Reyes.

In a 25-page complaint, Reyes argued that the high court committed "judicial despotism" when it ruled a vacancy in the Office of the President and installed Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo as President.

Padilla said Reyes was accompanied by former Assemblyman Vicente Millora, former secretary general of the Kilusang Bagong Lipunan. "They were actually on their way to the House secretary general (to file the case)," Padilla said.

He said the minority group, composed of 18 House members, had tasked Maguindanao Rep. Didagen Dilangalen with reviewing the complaint. "We do not have any commitment yet. We only committed to study (it)," Padilla said.

Dilangalen said he would ask Reyes to "improve" his complaint. "The complaint needs improvement," Dilangalen told the INQUIRER. "My recommendation is not to file it."

Dilangalen said there were grounds for betrayal of public trust and culpable violation of the Constitution. "But you cannot include all the Supreme Court justices. It's unfair to some," he said.

Sources said the complaint might be limited to Davide and Panganiban.

At the press conference, Ver Eustaquio, UMDJ spokesperson, said his group wanted to save the Supreme Court as an institution from further destruction and the judicial system from being prostituted by the three justices.

Rogue justices

"Sad to say, these rogue justices have allowed themselves to be used by the all-powerful oligarchs in meting out grave injustices to Joseph Ejercito Estrada," Eustaquio said.

He repeated Estrada's allegation that then presidential friend Lucio Tan had lobbied for Davide's appointment as chief justice. Eustaquio noted that Tan's tax evasion cases were dismissed after Davide's appointment.

"He (Davide) knew that a walkout was imminent once the motion to open the second envelope fell through (during Estrada's impeachment). When it came, not even a squeak was heard from the Chief Justice. His silence sealed the fate of Estrada," the UMDJ spokesperson said.

He said Panganiban acted "dishonorably" when he "acted as a messenger" between Davide and Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin before the Supreme Court's decision to allow then Vice President Macapagal-Arroyo to take her oath as the country's new President in January last year.

Carpio should also resign because he is an appointee of the President and was once a member of a law firm that "had become influential in the present administration," Remulla said.

Eustaquio noted that the three justices and two others had met with Sin before the high court affirmed the plunder law's constitutionality.

"These instances clearly showed to the people the questionable character and procedures followed by the current members of the high tribunal. The people's trust in the Supreme Court as a vital cog in our democratic system and as a venerable institution has been irreversibly eroded," he said.

"The integrity and credibility of our justice system have been compromised. Unless Davide, Panganiban and Carpio resign as Supreme Court magistrates, the erosion of the people's trust in the administration of justice will be irreparable," Eustaquio said.

"Couple this with the people's rising consciousness on the bourgeois kangaroo trial of Estrada's cases and you have a worrisome situation to deal with," he added.

But Eustaquio said his group was not out to destroy the country's justice system as it was only against certain personalities in power.

Gloria admits she considered exile for Erap

By Carlito Pablo

PRESIDENT Macapagal-Arroyo yesterday admitted that she had previously considered allowing exile for her ousted predecessor.

But this was before Estrada was formally charged before the Sandiganbayan and arrested, she said, adding that "he could have left the country if he wanted to."

The President said Estrada could have gone away "a long time ago." She recalled that while the Office of the Ombudsman was conducting preliminary investigation on the Estrada cases, some bishops suggested exile for the ousted leader.

"I was asked what was my opinion. I said, 'That's not my call, that's Estrada's call,' because at that time it was his call," she told Malacañang reporters.

The President likewise said Estrada had the option to leave the country before he was forced to step down on Jan. 20, 2001, as a result of People Power II.

"Again, it was also his call," she said.

But she demurred when asked to confirm Estrada's earlier claim that Justice Secretary Hernando "Nani" Perez offered him the option to leave the country at that time.

"I cannot answer for Nani Perez," she said.

Ms Macapagal was also reluctant to confirm talks that during People Power II, Manila Archbishop Jaime Cardinal Sin and former President Corazon Aquino were in favor of sending Estrada to exile immediately after his ouster.

Such an exit would have been similar to what happened to the late dictator Ferdinand Marcos in 1986, wherein he was whisked by helicopter to the then US military base in Clark, Pampanga, and later flown to Hawaii.

She said that "except for their interaction with me," she was "not privy" to what Sin and Aquino were "negotiating."

"But I wouldn't be surprised if at that time the logic of the Church—there is a lot of mercy in the logic of the Church—was he was not yet charged, so really he could have left," she said.

The President stressed that allowing exile for Estrada ceased to be an option after he was charged before the anti-graft court.

"I respect the rule of law. It's up to the Sandiganbayan. I've never wavered from that position," she said.

She denied that her administration was put in a fix by Estrada's moves to take his fight out of the court and to the streets.

"I'm not in a tough situation: I know where I stand," she said.

The President also denied that Malacañang had recently offered to allow Estrada to leave, saying: "Who in Malacañang? Not me."

Her spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said that if there were parties discussing with Estrada the option of exile, "these are not her emissaries.

The President said there was no need for her to meet with Estrada because "there's no clamor (for it) now."

She expressed pity for Estrada's wife, Sen. Luisa Ejercito, who had assailed the Supreme Court and the Sandiganbayan for alleged bias.

Gov't set to preempt 'theatrics'

From page A1

porters that law enforcers were "very well prepared" for "whatever confrontation there will be" with Estrada's supporters.

Arnold Obina, spokesperson of the pro-Estrada People's Movement Against Poverty (PMAP), admitted that the group planned to hold a protest rally tomorrow, but said this would be peaceful.

"We just want to show our sympathy for the former President as well as denounce the injustice being done to him," Obina said in a phone interview. "We want to show him that we believe in his observation that he can't get justice from the courts."

Obina said that contrary to earlier reports, only a small group of PMAP members numbering between 500 and 1,000 would join tomorrow's protest action.

He said they would assemble at the St. Peter's Basilica on Commonwealth Avenue in Quezon City before marching to the Sandiganbayan.

Script

A Palace insider said that according to the supposed "script" drawn up by the Estrada camp, the ousted President might refuse to leave his hospital suite.

The source said the Sandiganbayan had given full authority to Director General Leandro Mendoza, chief of the Philippine National Police, to personally deal with such a situation.

Mendoza will be assisted by the Sandiganbayan's sheriff, who is in charge of serving summonses issued by the anti-graft court.

"We believe that persuasion will work," the source said.

Justice Secretary Hernando Perez said he would give strict instructions to Mendoza "not to use force" even if Estrada resisted the summons.

"I am against any attempt to bodily carry the former President to the courtroom in case he refuses to go voluntarily and peacefully," Perez told reporters. "I will inform the PNP director general that no force should be employed."

Perez said Mendoza should just "make a report" to the Sandiganbayan if Estrada refused to go.

But the Department of Justice and the prosecution will ask the court to "review" Estrada's "physical condition," and determine "if his continued stay at the (VMMC) is justified," Perez said, adding:

"If he does not have to be hospitalized, then he might as well be brought back to (Fort) Santo Domingo (in Sta. Rosa, Laguna)."

Perez also said the Sandiganbayan should also study the possibility of transferring the trial to the VMMC or to other venues acceptable to the court.

Barricade

A source in the intelligence community said Tuesday that Estrada's supporters might attempt to foil authorities by barricading either the VMMC or the Sandiganbayan.

But the Palace source said this contingency would be covered by the plan to transport Estrada to the court by helicopter.

The source said that based on supposedly confidential figures drawn up by Estrada supporters, organizers would mobilize a maximum of 5,000 protesters tomorrow.

"Of course, these organizers are boasting to their supposed financiers that they can produce up to 50,000 people," the source said. "But they know the real score—they don't have enough forces."

The source also said Estrada organizers were paying urban poor residents P200 each just to attend anti-government gatherings.

"But what we've monitored is that they are offering P1,000 each to join street rallies," the source said, adding that Estrada organizers were planning to mobilize more forces for the first anniversary of the Labor Day attack on Malacañang.

"What we're hoping is that former President Estrada will submit to the court without the theatrics," the source said.

Ms Macapagal is confident that law enforcement agencies are prepared for "anything."

But she noted that compared with last year's May 1 riot that was preceded by pro-Estrada rallies at the Edsa Shrine starting April 25, the mass action scheduled tomorrow had no build-up activities.

"Remember, they had a big rally on April 25," she said. "If they're going to do something on Friday, today is already Wednesday."

Asked whether the government would dish out its own theatrics to counter the Estrada camp's plans, the President said: "But I am not a professional actress."

Apologists

The PMAP's Obina denied that Estrada's supporters would engage in any theatrics.

"Reports that each time we mobilize people there would be clashes do not come from us, but from the government and GMA's apologists like (her spokesperson) Rigoberto Tiglao," he said.

Even then, Obina said, he would advise PMAP members to hold a peaceful rally "because it's only through peaceful means that we can get our message across and air our grievances."

"We will also police our ranks to keep infiltrators out," he said.

Obina admitted that the PMAP had made strategic plans to mark the May 1 siege of Malacañang, but said the details of these plans would be announced in due time.

He denied that they were recruiting urban poor residents for the commemoration by as much as P1,000 each, and said such reports were being spread by community leaders of Quezon City Mayor Feliciano Belmonte.

"We don't have that much resources," Obina said. "We're living on the subsistence level in our office. Mobilizing people already requires much money. Besides, that's not our style. Those people who join our rallies are convinced of our cause."

Director Edgar Aglipay, chief of the National Capital Region Police Office, had earlier said he was ready to field as many as 3,000 policemen to deal with any protest rally tomorrow.

A police official in charge of Estrada's close-in security also said they were prepared for any eventuality.

"Oplan Batasan and Oplan Veterans are always in place during Erap's (hearings)," said the source, who asked not to be named. "We only need to activate them. The movement of personnel, security and vehicles is ready."

An intelligence officer dismissed rumors of a plot to assassinate Estrada during his trial "to make him a sacrificial lamb."

"That's an old story," said the officer, who also requested anonymity. "If there's any such plot, it would come from (Estrada's) camp, to discredit the government." ***With a report from Juliet L. Javellana***

SC Justices decline . . .

From page A1

selves from the deliberations on Macapagal administration's legitimacy.

It was Davide who administered the swearing-in of President Gloria Macapagal-Arroyo on Jan. 20 last year after People Power II forced Estrada to leave the Palace.

All 14 justices were present at the time.

Perez also noted that Carpio did not take part in any proceedings relating to Estrada's numerous petitions filed with the Supreme Court, including deliberations on the constitutionality of the Plunder Law.

Davide and Panganiban, however, took part in the plunder proceedings because Estrada's lawyers had asked that they inhibit themselves only from questions about the legitimacy of the administration.

Carpio, who was appointed by Ms Macapagal in October last year, even had to inhibit himself from the oral arguments on the revival of the Kuratong Baleleng cases that involve Sen. Panfilo Lacson.

"They have no part in any of the Estrada cases, so why ask them to resign?" Perez said of the Supreme Court justices.

Perez confirmed that the high court justices were not bothered by Estrada's attacks but were discussing the matter among themselves.

"Not one person even if he is a past president has the right to ask a justice of the Supreme Court, much less the Chief Justice, to resign," presidential spokesperson Rigoberto Tiglao said.

Helpless

Davide and the entire judiciary are "most helpless" in defending themselves from Estrada's attacks, according to Sen. Joker Arroyo.

Arroyo said that of the three branches of government, "the judiciary can only react to the controversies that are brought before it by litigants."

"In contrast, the executive and legislative comprise the political departments of the government. They are elected and, if attacked, they can fight back. Not the judiciary," Arroyo said in a statement. He noted that Estrada was exploiting this weakness.

Arroyo advised Estrada to learn from the experience of former US President Richard Nixon who resigned at the height of the Watergate scandal.

Arroyo recounted that Nixon had appointed Warren Burger as chief justice and Harry Blackmun, Lewis Powel and William Rehnquist as justices of the US Supreme Court.

When the Watergate scandal came about, Nixon was served with a judicial subpoena to produce the tape recordings of all the proceedings in the Oval office.

But Nixon ignored the subpoena, prompting prosecutors to elevate the issue to the Supreme Court, which unanimously ruled that the President produce the tapes. Nixon invoked "absolute executive privilege" in refusing to turn over the tapes.

The US Supreme Court ruled that a President must "obey a judicially enforced subpoena because no one, not even the nation's chief executive, is above the law."

Nixon was left with no choice but to turn over the tapes, which eventually revealed the "smoking gun" necessary to impeach him. After this, Nixon resigned.

Learn from Nixon

"There was no recrimination on the part of Nixon who acceded to the court's judgment. He did not even suggest judicial betrayal," Arroyo pointed out. "President Estrada has a thing or two to learn from Nixon," he said.

In the House of Representatives, administration and opposition legislators rallied behind the Supreme Court and declared that an impeachment complaint against members of the high tribunal would not prosper. They said the judiciary must be protected as it was the last bulwark of democracy.

An impeachment complaint prepared by lawyer Crispin T. Reyes was submitted to the minority group last week. ***(See related story on Page A16.)***

"Between him and the Supreme Court, I will believe the Supreme Court," said Deputy Speaker Raul Gonzalez, on whose behalf Reyes filed an impeachment complaint against Supreme Court justices in 1988.

Gonzalez, a member of the ruling Lakas party, said the aim of Reyes' complaint was to destroy the judiciary.

The complaint will not prosper, according to Eastern Samar Rep. Marcelino Libanan, chair of the House justice committee.

"As a lawyer, I believe that in our democratic system it is the Supreme Court which is the final arbiter of conflicts, so we have to respect its decision," said Libanan of the Nationalist People's Coalition (NPC).

Lanao del Sur Rep. Benasing Macarambon, an NPC member who tried to file a resolution for Estrada's exile, said he would not support the complaint.

"I still believe in the integrity of the Supreme Court under the leadership of Davide. The complaint will not prosper," he said.

"*Ano sila sinuswerte*?" asked Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno, Lakas member.

Davao City Rep. Prospero Nograles said the impeachment move was seditious.

"The chances of that succeeding here are zero," said Pampanga Rep. Oscar Rodriguez of Lakas.

House Majority Leader Neptali Gonzales II said the grounds cited by Reyes were not impeachable offenses.

"Grounds such as that won't hold here," Gonzales said.

"You have to show grounds," said San Juan Rep. Ronaldo Zamora, Estrada's former executive secretary. He described Reyes as a legal gadfly. "He's prone to filing impeachment complaints," Zamora said. ***With a report from Rocky Nazareno***

2 French hostages sue Estrada

From page A1

and its insurance company Axa.

Rosenthal, who is based in France and who specializes in international law, is being assisted in the Philippines in the Estrada case by the Public Interest Law Center, headed by human rights lawyer Romeo Capulong.

Marie Yuviengco, a member of the private prosecution panel during Estrada's impeachment trial, is handling the case.

In a phone interview, Rosenthal declined to reveal how much in damages his clients were seeking, saying he was leaving it up to Estrada to disclose the total amount.

He told the INQUIRER that both Loisy and Wendling were engineers who lost substantial income after being in captivity for almost five months. As a result, he said, they suffered emotionally, physically and mentally because of their "traumatic experiences."

"It was very hard for them. Since they were freed they always think about their ordeal and (have) had to see a lot of doctors," Rosenthal said.

The French lawyer said the writ of summons had already been sent to the French Ministry of Justice and would be transmitted to the Department of Justice within a week.

The French Embassy, accompanied by the DOJ, would serve the writ on Estrada, Rosenthal added.

Estrada's lawyers

"I understand Mr. Estrada, who is now jailed and being prosecuted, has fired his nine lawyers. But under our law, Mr. Estrada has two months to find a French lawyer to defend himself in the Court of Nantes-France," Rosenthal said. "He has so much time to find a lawyer."

Rosenthal said his clients believed their lives were put at risk when Estrada ordered a military attack on the Abu Sayyaf while they were still in captivity.

"My clients could not imagine that Mr. Estrada could waste so much time in engaging in negotiations with the kidnappers while at the same time ordering a military attack against the kidnappers," Rosenthal said. "You cannot negotiate and order an attack at the same time and waste a lot of time."

Rosenthal said Estrada could have forgotten that the Philippines was a signatory of the 1979 convention, which specifically enjoins state-parties to "take all measures appropriate to ease the situation of the hostage," he said.

Yuviengco said the PILC was working closely with Rosenthal in developing the case, to contribute to the international campaign against hostage-taking and ransom payments.

"We are also helping in building up the case to expose the kind of policy the Philippine government has in handling kidnapping situations, like putting the kidnap victims in precarious conditions," Yuviengco said.

Rosenthal said the PILC would assist him and his clients in gathering evidence against other government officials involved in the negotiations with the Abu Sayyaf at the time his clients were held captive. These officials would be included in the liability damage suit, he said.

Traumatic ordeal

Asked what took Loisy and Wendling so long to file the case, Rosenthal said his clients needed several months to recover from "shock because of their ordeal."

At the same time, he said, the filing was hampered by the difficulty in gathering evidence.

Loisy and Wendling were among the 21 foreigners taken hostage by Abu Sayyaf bandits from the Malaysian island of Sipadan. They were then taken to Jolo, Sulu, where they were held for nearly five months.

"Stephane Loisy told the story of the ordeal endured by himself and his girlfriend as well as the 19 other hostages, one of whom has never been released," Rosenthal told the INQUIRER.

"Stephane wrote a diary and recounted the endless wait for their liberation, the lack of food and hygiene, the fear and violence inflicted upon them daily by their kidnappers and the army of the Philippines for nearly five months," Rosenthal said.

Loisy's diary was turned into a book entitled "Hostage in Jolo," published in France by Denoel.

Rosenthal said the Federal State of Sabah-Malaysia was also being sued for its failure "to insure its guests a minimum amount of security" and Ultramarina for selling Loisy and Wendling the scuba diving trip without warning them of the "instability that has always existed in that region where there have been repeated terrorist attacks for about 15 years."

Axa is Ultramarina's liability insurer.

BEST COPY AVAILABLE

US spearheads UN resolution endorsing Palestinian state

From page A1

vilian lives."

The council resolution, adopted minutes before midnight, began by "affirming a vision of a region where two states, Israel and Palestine, live side by side within secure and recognized borders."

It also welcomed "the contribution of Saudi Crown Prince Abdullah," who has proposed that Arab states offer "complete peace" in exchange for full Israeli withdrawal from occupied Arab land.

US Ambassador John Negroponte said Washington's surprise move aimed to give momentum to the peace mission being launched this week by US Middle East envoy Anthony Zinni.

The vision of a Palestinian state had been expressed before by both US President George W. Bush and Secretary of State Collin Powell, Negroponte added.

He described the document as "a strong resolution on the Middle East," capturing a broad consensus on the goals and next steps in the peace process and speaking out strongly against terrorism.

"Our intent in doing this was to give an impulse to peace efforts and to decry violence and terror," he said after the vote.

Rare praise

Palestinian UN representative Nasser al-Kidwa, more accustomed to criticizing the United States for obstructing its plans, had rare praise for the US resolution as "something which we believe will help the situation on the ground."

Israeli UN Ambassador Yehuda Lancry termed the resolution balanced—"which is quite a novelty for Israel"—and expressed hope that Zinni's peace mission would succeed in leading to a ceasefire and ultimately to a resumption of peace talks.

He said he drew two lessons from the text: "You cannot combine the practice of terrorism and the practice of peace" and there must be a ceasefire before starting negotiations.

But Syria's UN envoy, Mikhail Wehbe, dismissed the text as "a weak resolution that fails to deal with the root cause of the problem—namely the Israeli occupation of the Palestinian territories."

But Damascus decided to abstain rather than vote against the text, he said, because it "did not want to break the unity of the council." Syria currently has the lone Arab vote in the Security Council.

The United States has in the past more typically used the threat of its veto power as one of the five permanent members of the council to block resolutions proposed by Arab nations. It has argued that proposed solutions to the crisis come from the parties and be acceptable to both sides.

The Security Council has adopted a number of resolutions over the years calling for Mideast peace, but none had referred to the contentious issue of a Palestinian state.

In last-minute negotiations, however, US officials added the "side-by-side" sentence. A US official said the phrase had been plucked from a speech of Powell's.

The resolution also demanded an "immediate cessation of all acts of violence, including all forms of terror, provocation, incitement and destruction" and called on Israelis and Palestinians to work together toward a ceasefire with an eye to resuming peace negotiations.

Washington put its draft forward after Syria pressed for a text, backed by Arab nations, that referred to a need for the Jewish state, as "the occupying power," to abide by international protections for civilians caught in war.

Council envoys said the US move caught Syria's UN envoy completely off guard.

Illegal occupation

The US draft surfaced hours after Annan unleashed his toughest criticism to date of Israel, urging it to end its "illegal occupation" of Palestinian lands and curb its attacks on civilians. Aides said it was the first time Annan had branded the occupation as illegal.

Since renewed Mideast violence erupted in September 2000, the United States has thwarted every effort by the Palestinians to get the Security Council to adopt a resolution that would condemn Israeli actions.

The United States abstained in the only council resolution that was approved. In October 2000, council members condemned the "excessive use of force" against Palestinians and backed an objective investigation into the violence.

Lancry said it was "not a new development," noting that Sharon has envisioned a Palestinian state and Israel entered a process in 1993 to end its occupation. But he stressed "we have to negotiate it."

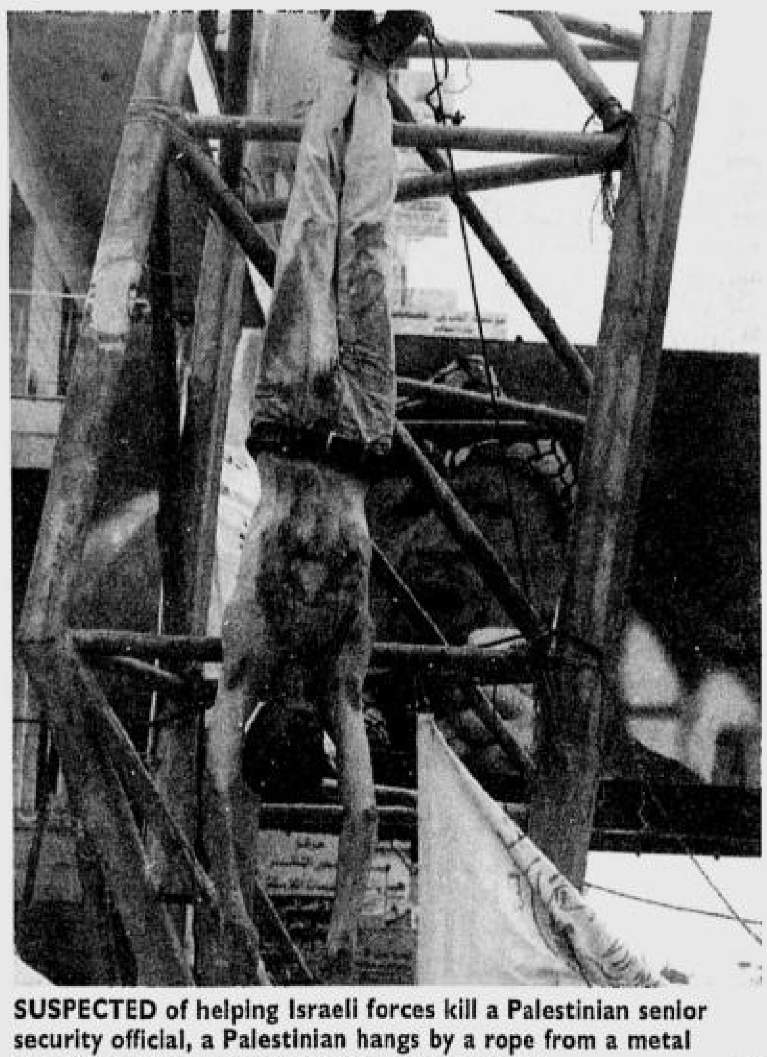
Al-Kidwa didn't think Annan was striking a harder stance. But he said it was "indicative that the whole world is getting . . . increasingly nervous about the situation and . . . wants to see an end to this occupation."

The Saudi's land-for-peace proposal is expected to be high on the agenda at the March 27-28 Arab summit in Beirut, and Amr Mussa, secretary general of the Arab League, has described it as a "last chance for peace" with Israel.

With reports from Reuters, AFP and AP

Bloody days: Mideast death toll

	Palestinians	Israelis
In last 18 months	1,168	339
In last 10 days	180+	50+
In last 24 hours	31	



SUSPECTED of helping Israeli forces kill a Palestinian senior security official, a Palestinian hangs by a rope from a metal structure with a backdrop of an Arafat poster. AP

RP traders support threat to quit WTO

From page A1

top exports.

Sudhoff described Roxas' position as "a very big surprise because we have been talking of Philippine strategies to lure investors here."

"Nobody wants to (withdraw from the WTO)," American Chamber of Commerce president Terry Emrick said.

But Federation of Philippine Industries president Raul Concepcion said Roxas merely echoed what domestic producers had long complained of as a double standard in the implementation of free trade rules by the WTO.

"The WTO has shown that free trade is not fair. There is a different rule for the haves and have-nots, which only reinforces the divide between the rich and poor countries. We agree with Roxas that unless all rules are applied uniformly among all members regardless of economic standing, there is no sense in remaining with the WTO," Concepcion said.

He praised Roxas for voicing out his strong opinion against the WTO's discrimination against developing countries like the Philippines in terms of complying with the global trade body's goal of breaking down tariff barriers, abolishing quota restrictions and curbing unfair trading practices.

Roxas cited Washington's decision to raise duties on steel products to protect its ailing steel industry and the European Union insistence on giving preference to tuna exports from their former colonies in Africa and the Caribbean over those coming from the Philippines.

Last week, US President George W. Bush decided to impose tariffs of up to 30 percent on imported steel less than four months after the much-trumpeted breakthrough on global trade liberalization in Doha.

For its part, the European Union has slapped a 24-percent tariff on tuna being shipped by the Philippines.

Concepcion said had these transgressions been made by developed countries against the United States or the European Union, the WTO would surely stop these moves.

On Tuesday, Roxas complained that the imposition of a tariff on tuna by the European Union was contrary to the WTO principle of promoting global trade.

"They preach one thing, they practice another thing," he told reporters.

"There's no reason (the Philippines) can't (be granted) a zero-tariff rate when it is a (former) colony of Spain, one of the members of the EU," he said.

But the trade secretary clarified yesterday that quitting the WTO was only an option for the Philippines, and that the government remained committed to the ideals of the organization for freer world trade.

He said the Philippines might withdraw from the WTO should the government believe that the benefits from its membership in the organization were too meager to compensate for the harm caused to its industries.

Roxas said other WTO members shared his sentiment, and that they were also rethinking the relevance of their continued stay in the WTO to their economic growth.

Concepcion said Roxas set the tone for upcoming negotiations in the WTO by sending a clear signal that it would not be subservient to the industrialized countries' demands.

Billionaire . . .

From page A1

dent about the future of the Philippine economy, whatever he had earned overseas in business he had brought back to the Philippines in investments."

The second legacy is the pursuit of the philanthropic activities of the family patriarch who established the KTTI Foundation and the Asiaworld Internationale Group in memory of his mother, Kingpaoguat Typoco Tan Yu. The foundations have granted thousands of college scholarships to poor students and supported numerous educational, medical, social, cultural, sports and other civic causes.

"We, his children will devote our lives to continue his legacy of helping others, of serving the community and the society," Coyiuto added.

Born in the rugged countryside of Fujian province, south China, Tan Yu was a boy when his family migrated to the Philippines and settled in Daet, Camarines Norte. When his father died, Tan Yu and his brother helped the family survive by peddling foodstuff on the streets. At 13, he became a fisherman in the seaside town of Mercedes to supplement the family income.

Of his childhood, Tan Yu had said:" We were poor . . . God was good to me. As if to compensate for the loss of my father and for our poverty, He gave me a great mother."

Love for the sea

The youthful fisherman began his lifelong love affair with the sea. "I look up to the sea because it is vast and wide, mighty and full of spirit. It . . . has influenced my whole life. The sea symbolizes endless opportunities and has given me the strength and the spirit to persevere through life's struggles."

After World War II, his mother sent Tan Yu to work as store clerk in Divisoria.

Starting as a store clerk who slept in the garage, he rose to become the owner of several textile mills. At 18, he earned his first million. At the same time, he had made a name for himself as a Ping-Pong champion who competed in tournaments held in the Asian region.

Favorite number

When the US cut off diplomatic relations with Taiwan for China in 1978, Tan Yu poured more investments into Taiwan including the construction of then Asia's largest international hotel and department store complex, the Asiaworld Plaza Hotel. He became Taiwan's largest Filipino investor.

During the martial law years, Tan Yu consolidated his business empire abroad. After the Edsa Revolt in 1986, Tan Yu brought back the proceeds from his investments in Taiwan and Hong Kong and other parts of the world to the Philippines. His largest investment was the purchase of the 173-hectare Marina reclamation complex fronting Manila Bay, besting another taipan in the bidding, Henry Sy Sr.

Tan Yu's bid was P1,777,777,777.77. Seven was his favorite number. He also bought Fuga and Barit islands.

His multinational business group is into real estate, hotel, banking, department store, textile mills and other enterprises in Taiwan, United States, Canada, China, the Philippines and other places.

Today, his daughter Dr. Emilia "Bien-Bien" Roxas Yang has assumed leadership of Asiaworld Group as Tan Yu had already set the guidelines for the transition since the 1980s.

Voracious reader

Though he did not finish college, Tan Yu was a voracious reader of literature, and history and classical Chinese poetry. He was known to be a dynamic public speaker.

On May 23, 1997, the New Jersey Institute of Technology conferred on him an Honorary Doctorate of Science degree during its 121st commencement ceremony. Instead of giving a speech, Tan Yu recited his original poem, "Whirlwind," which was applauded 12 times and greeted with a standing ovation from the 20,000 graduates, students and guests which included the state governor.

Kidney transplant

In 1994, Tan Yu had a kidney transplant at the Hermann Medical Center in Houston, Texas. The doctors told him that he had only 20 days to live if he did not have another operation as the new kidney apparently failed. He refused the second operation.

"Instead of listening to my doctors, I prayed to God for His help and I pledged that if I live, I would work 17 hours a day so I can help more people," he recalled during the thanksgiving dinner for his recovery.

Last Tuesday, while at Hermann Medical Center for a routine checkup, Tan Yu died of heart failure, eight years after his doctors had said he was a goner.

His body will be flown to Manila at a date to be later announced and will lie in state at his residence at 16 Guirayan St. corner Palansa Street, Sta. Mesa, Quezon City.

Malacañang boo-boo behind holiday snafu

From page A1

working days throughout the country were prematurely released to the media Tuesday morning, according to Rigoberto Tiglao, spokesperson for President Macapagal-Arroyo.

While the President signed the proclamation on March 11, it was supposed to have been put on hold pending a review by the Cabinet during its regular Tuesday meeting.

As it turned out, the President, upon the recommendation of Trade Secretary Manuel Roxas, decided that Holy Wednesday would be a non-working day for government employees only.

It is up to private employers to decide whether that day will be a holiday for their employees, but they are encouraged to arrange work shifts to make this possible.

Black Saturday remains a holiday for both public and private sectors.

The amended version of Proclamation No. 164, which was released yesterday, is silent on whether government employees will not be required to report for work on Holy Monday and Tuesday (March 25 and 26).

The original version said these days could be declared non-working days "under certain conditions."

Tiglao announced the amendment to Proclamation No. 164 about 6 p.m. Tuesday, but some media reports were not revised accordingly.

The INQUIRER was able to make the necessary correction, but yesterday its central office in Makati received a number of calls, mostly from private employees confused by the different versions that came out in the media.

Before phoning the INQUIRER, an employee supposedly called Malacañang to inquire about the matter, but the one who took the call at the Palace simply read the original proclamation.

Tiglao said they did not know who was responsible for releasing the original version of the proclamation to the media.

Counterproductive

Last Tuesday, business leaders assailed the President's "holiday economics" as counterproductive.

Donald Dee, president of the Employers Confederation of the Philippines, told Ms Macapagal that the increased tourism earnings resulting from long holidays were "far outweighed by the costs incurred by most businesses and by further losses in productivity."

At lunch yesterday with Malacañang reporters, the President said that while she indeed signed the original proclamation, she informed her chief legal counsel Avelino Cruz that "we'd better rethink it."

"So I don't know why it came out," she said.

According to the President, the present situation is different from that last Christmas when there was not "too much resistance to the long holidays."

She noted that exports then were down by 40 percent and businessmen agreed that it was a good time to promote local tourism by giving employees long breaks.

"But now, their orders are coming back and they need to catch up. They need to make up for what they lost last year," the President said.

Roxas was said to have advised the President that declaring Holy Wednesday a holiday for the private sector would deprive businesses of an extra working day.

Gloria now stops to smell the flowers

From page A1

in her first year in office, she said.

She has banished long meetings that last well into the night. "You know in fact I've been able to play badminton so often," she added.

The President makes it a point to visit communities every day. She visited Sto. Niño Village in Taguig yesterday.

On Monday she admitted that she still had to make the masses feel the benefits of a good macro-economic environment.

"I feel that because we've achieved our macro-economic gains six months ahead of time, now when I go down to the micro (level) and dialog more . . . (I am) giving (the people) more time, which also means having more time to smell the flowers," she said.

She said she had learned to be more patient and less *"mataray"*. (snooty) this way.

Already, the President has failed several times to keep her New Year's resolution to be less of a snob.

She was too relaxed to be pressed to say why she stopped her subscription to the Tribune and Malaya.

But when further pressed, she said it was to cut cost.

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Williamses have no regrets

DELRAY BEACH, Florida—Venus and Serena Williams have no regrets about skipping this week's Pacific Life Open at Indian Wells, California, saying the verbal abuse they took from last year's crowd would have made it impossible for them to enjoy playing there. *AP*

SPORTS

Editor **Al S. Mendoza** ◉ Assistant Editor **Edwin M. Villanueva**

SPORTS ON TV

Compiled by Lorenzo Mangulat

BASKETBALL: US NCAA - 2002 Postseason NIT Tournament at 1 p.m., Big East Tournament Championship at 5 p.m. on ESPN NBA at 10 p.m. on NBN 4

TENNIS: Pacific Life Open, Early Round Coverage Day #2 at 10:30 a.m. (r – 7:30 p.m.), Day #3 at 9 p.m. on Star Sports

GOLF: Golfglobe 2002 at 11:30 a.m. (r) on Star Sports

Spring, Guardo forge all-Filipino final

GAMES TODAY
4 p.m.—RP-Spring vs Guardo-M. Lhuillier
5:30 p.m.—Singapore vs Indonesia

By Roy Luarca

CEBU CITY—RP-Spring Cooking Oil recovered from a scoreless spell in the third quarter to beat Petronas Malaysia, 93-83, Tuesday night and give fellow Philippine entry Guardo-M. Lhuillier a free ride to the Southeast Asia Basketball Association (Seaba) Champion's Cup final at the Cebu Coliseum here.

The Cooking Oil Experts posted their third straight victory in as many outings to claim a championship berth, pushing along Guardo-M. Lhuillier, which carries a 2-0 slate and is battling Tong Whye of Singapore at presstime.

Even if RP Guardo-M. Lhuillier loses to Singapore (0-2) and RP Spring Oil today, it would still advance to the final as it had beaten both Aspac Texmaco Malaysia and Petronas Malaysia.

Indonesia is at 1-2 following the Indons' 71-68 victory in the first game yesterday. Malaysia dropped to 1-3.

Complacent, the Cooking Oil Experts watched the Malaysians surge ahead at 63-56 ending the third quarter behind four straight triples, three coming from national player K. Saryaseelan.

With the Malaysians still in the game, 71-71, Spring Oil reinforcements Bobby Parks and Hamsa Jihad took matters into their hands, conspiring in a 20-point run that put the Filipinos beyond reach.

The 6-foot-4 Jihad accounted for 28 points, while seven-time best import awardee Parks added 27, capped by back-to-back triples in that decisive outburst, for the Cooking Oil Experts of co-owners Tac Padilla and Herbert de Jesus.

"We have a good chance of winning this tournament,"said RP Spring Oil coach Tito Palma, who is seeking his fourth crown after steering the Cooking Oil Experts to the National Open, Danny Espiritu Cup and Mayor Atienza Cup titles.

The five-team, four-nation tournament is sponsored by Accel, the national team official outfitter; Burlington, the official socks; Molten ball, YKL Color, Absolute distilled water and the Philippine Charity Sweepstakes Office (PCSO).

Regardless of the final outcome tomorrow, RP-Spring Cooking Oil and RP Guardo-M. Lhuillier have earned the two slots allotted to Seaba in the Asian Basketball Confederation Champions Cup slated in Kuala Lumpur next month.

The scores:

RP SPRING 93—Jihad 28, Parks 27, Co 22, Buendia 7, De Castro 4, Ricafuente 3, Ferma 2, Lapena 2, Torres 1.

PETRONAS MALAYSIA 83—Livingstone 28, Saryaseelan 28, Yeo 7, Way 5, Won 4, Yong 3, Yik 3, Ang 2.

Quarters: 24-16, 42-36, 56-63, 93-83.

Peñalosa dominates kayak tilt

TEENER April Peñalosa continued to polish her potential by dominating the Junior National Canoe and Kayak Championships first leg held recently in Balete, Batangas.

Peñalosa, 15, and owner of a silver and four bronze medals from the Southeast Asian Championships in Kuala Lumpur last November, clocked two minutes and 26 seconds in topping the event organized by the Philippine Canoe Federation (PCE) headed by Dr. Sim Chi Tat.

There are two legs in the championships—the second scheduled April 7 also in Balete—according to PCF officials, who took time to turn the tables against Robert James Lagan, a dismissed national athlete who accused federation officials of favoritism and irregularities.

PCE officials, in a formal report they intend to submit to the Philippine Sports Commission (PSC), dismissed Lagan for tardiness and abseentism, attitude problem, irresponsibility bordering on conduct unbecoming of a national athlete and for refusal to obey federation rules and regulations, like returning boats in their proper places.

The 23-year-old Lagan, federation officials explained, was verbally warned several times last year for his acts. Lagan, they said, ignored their warning and was eventually dropped from the roster last Feb. 5.

RP offered G. Prix hosting

By Marc Anthony Reyes

THE PHILIPPINES has been offered to host the first edition of the Asian Track and Field Grand Prix, a strictly invitational event where only the best athletes in the region are given the right to see action.

Asian Amateur Athletics Association secretary general Maurice Nicholas made the offer through a telephone conversation with Philippine track and field chief Go Teng Kok yesterday in a show of respect to the late Gov. Jose Sering, founder of the AAAA.

However, Go expressed concerns over the amount of money it will require to host the third leg of the Grand Prix and that he has to get the approval of Philippine Sports Commission chair Eric Buhain before he can accept the offer.

Under the Grand Prix rules, only the top five runners, jumpers and throwers in Asia are allowed in each of the 15 events to be contested. However, the host country is allowed to field in three participants in each event.

"If you really think about it, we can save a lot of money by hosting the Grand Prix here instead of sending our athletes in different tournaments to test their strength against possible Asian Games rivals," said Go. "Because all the best athletes are already in the Grand Prix."

The AAAA officials are also set to convene in Manila during the Gov. Sering Open and Invitational Memorial Cup in May, which will serve as the annual National Open for track and field.

"The AAAA officials hope to commemorate and pay tribute to the late Gov. Sering," said Go. "And that tribute is not complete until we can stage one of the legs of the Grand Prix."

The Grand Prix, which will only be inaugurated this year, is a six-stop affair to be held in the different cities of member countries.

Swiss netter ousts Agassi

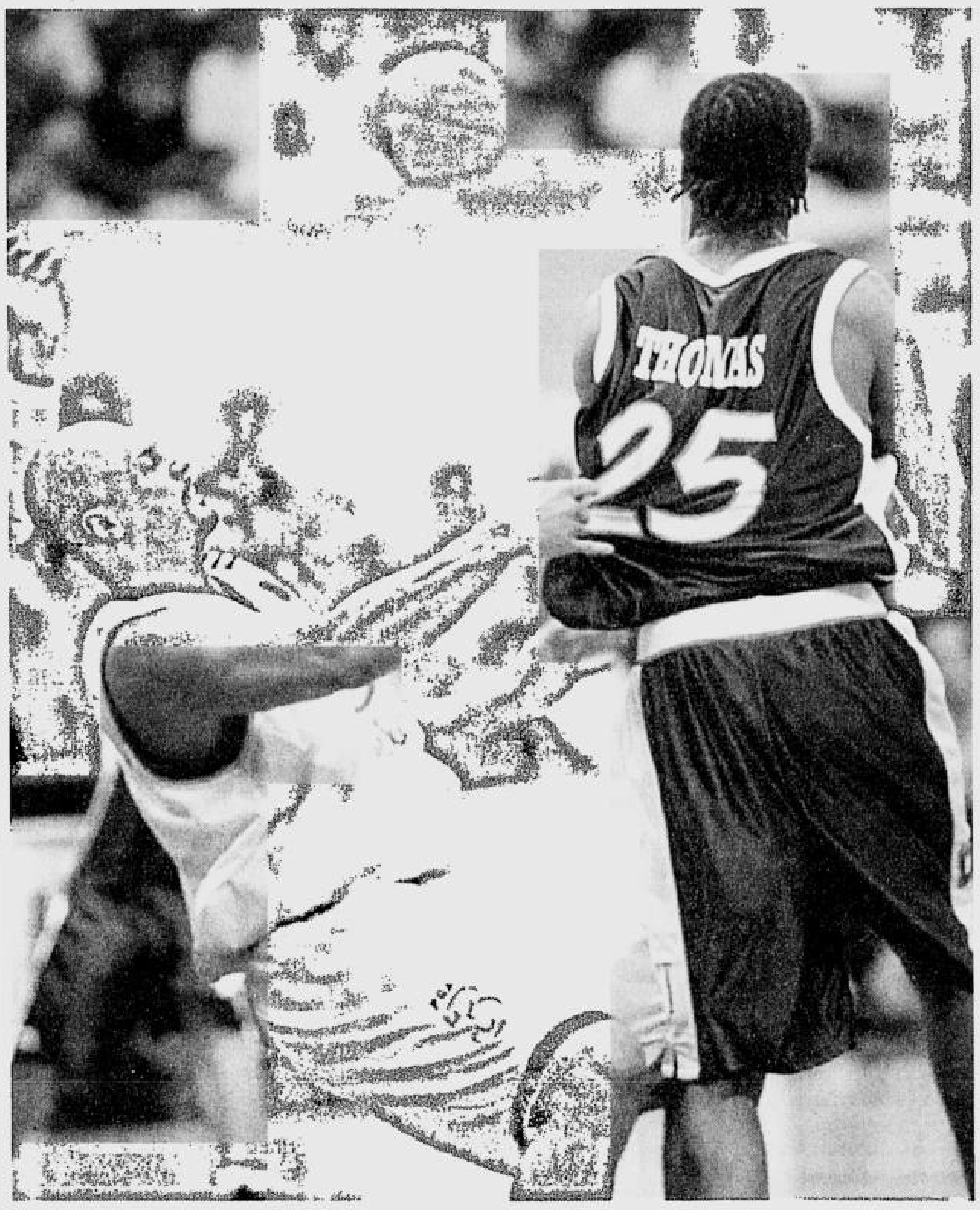
INDIAN WELLS, California—Andre Agassi, last weekend's winner in Arizona and the defending champion at Indian Wells, made a quick exit Tuesday when he lost his opening match to Michel Kratochvil.

Kratochvil won 7-6 (5), 7-6 (6), dropping Agassi's record in tiebreakers this year to 1-6 - which also accounts for the only sets he's lost.

The 22-year-old from Switzerland beat Agassi at his own game, keeping his 31-year-old opponent moving from side to side until Agassi eventually made a mistake.

While he also was mistake-prone, Kratochvil was the steadier of the two in the tiebreakers, ending the first with a booming overhead.

Kratochvil, ranked 44th in the ATP entry system, wrapped up the match by taking the final two points of the second-set tiebreaker. Agassi hit a backhand wide to fall behind 7-6, then had no chance on the final point as Kratochvil whipped a hard backhand just inside the left line. *AP*



CHRIS Jackson of Selecta-RP (left) prevents Sta. Lucia Realty import Victor Thomas from going after the loose ball by grabbing the latter's jersey during their PBA game Tuesday night at the Philsports Arena. The Realtors prevailed, 61-55.

ROMY HOMILLADA

Purefoods tackles SMB today

Teams	W	L	Teams	W	L
Purefoods	4	1	Fedex	3	3
Red Bull	4	1	San Miguel	2	3
Talk N Text	3	1	Sta. Lucia	2	3
Coca-Cola	4	2	Ginebra	1	4
Hapee-RP	3	2	Shell	1	4
Alaska	3	2	Selecta-RP	1	5

GAME TODAY (Makati Coliseum)
6 p.m.—San Miguel vs Purefoods

By June Navarro

PUREFOODS hopes to flash its devastating form anew when it plays San Miguel Beer tonight in the PBA Governors Cup at the Makati Coliseum.

Coach Ryan Gregorio and his TJ Hotdogs crushed the Selecta-RP Team, 89-72, in an out-of-town match last week and another romp of a similar magnitude wouldn't be far-fetched in the 6 p.m. encounter.

Derrick Brown and Leonard White pieced together a pair of startling performances in that game to shove the Hotdogs at the top of the heap along with Batang Red Bull at 4-1.

The Beermen, on the other hand, are still feeling their way around with Lamont Strothers and former NBA journeyman Mario Bennett on top of every situation.

At 2-3, the Beermen are one flight up from cellar-dwellers Barangay Ginebra, Shell and Selecta-RP Team.

Although the Beermen have broken their losing chain with back-to-back victories over Federal Express and Shell, those exploits hardly reflect their cohesiveness unlike when Danny Ildefonso, Danny Seigle and Olsen Racela were around.

Without them, the Beermen opened their season with three consecutive setbacks before beating FedEx, 79-75, and Shell, 76-72.

Scooter championship set Sunday

THE SHELL Advance Super Scooter Championships—the biggest and most prestigious scooter competition in the country—finally comes off the wraps on Sunday (March 17) at the Carmona Racing Circuit in Carmona, Cavite.

The country's top scooter riders, led by last year's expert open champion Jaime Barcial and 50cc winner R.B. Santos, are expected to see action anew in this annual series organized by the E.L. Racing Tech in cooperation with Shell Advance motorcycle oil.

Barcial, who was also honored by the National Motorcycle Sports and Safety Association (NAMSSA) for his success in scooter racing last year, is expected to have his hands full this year.

Barcial's chief rivals will be two-time scooter champion Jolet Jao, Carlo Yalo, Geoffrey Ballesteros, Ivan Santiago, and Randy Ortiz.

Santos, a prized find from Malabon, is also expected to find stiff position from his closest rivals this year.

"Like in the previous years, this year's series is expected to be just as exciting. The riders are all ready," said motocross champion-turned-race organizer Ernie Leongson.

Leongson said riders in other categories are also expected to "perform well this year."

Top officials from Pilipinas Shell have been invited to attend the opening ceremony starting at 9 a.m. Leongson and race director Elson Carpio will personally flay off the participants.

Other race schedules are April 14, May 26, June 30, July 21, Aug. 18, Sept. 8, Oct. 6, Nov. 24 and Dec. 8.

Aguilar seeks 7th straight crown

WITH six straight Rider of the Year awards tucked under his belt, Caltex-Revtex skipper Glenn Aguilar could be considered as the greatest champion in Philippine motocross history.

But he is not about to stop.

Aguilar, known as the "Caltex Revtex Rocket" for his flying maneuvers over the table top, wants a historic seventh consecutive crown when the WG&A National Motocross Series kicks off March 14-15 in Passi, Iloilo City.

His championship haul, though achieved in only six years, matched the feat of top rival Jovy Saulog who copped six crowns in a span of 16 years. A seventh straight title would be an unprecedented feat for Aguilar.

"Yun ang gusto kong makamit. Wala pa kasing nakakagawa ng seven consecutive crowns *sa* motocross. *Wala pa akong balak huminto sa ngayon,"* said Aguilar.

Aguilar has earned the respect as the idol of tricyle drivers and motorcycle enthusiasts all over the country.

In every province where the motocross series is staged, Aguilar enjoys the superstar status as he instantly gains the adoration of local folk with his spectacular stunts, leaving them in awe as he sends his motorcycle high above the tabletop and even flops his legs on air.

AGUILAR

Sixers rally to subdue NY Knicks

NEW YORK—The ejection of Dikembe Mutombo for a flagrant foul spurred the Philadelphia 76ers on to a 104-96 victory over the New York Knicks on Tuesday.

The Sixers rallied from a 20-point deficit after Mutombo's ejection. It was the largest lead lost at home by the Knicks for 10 seasons.

Allen Iverson scored 35 points and Eric Snow added 23 for the Sixers, who won their fourth straight game.

Snow limited Allan Houston to 1-of-9 shooting in the second half. Houston had made five three-pointers and 18 points before the break.

Snow and Iverson, who leads the league in steals with 150 this season, had four steals apiece.

Latrell Sprewell scored 27 points and Clarence Weatherspoon added 13 points and 10 rebounds for New York.

Nets 86, Raptors 84

In East Rutherford, New Jersey, Kenyon Martin tipped in a rebound with three-tenths of a second left as the Nets served up an 86-84 heartbreak defeat to the Toronto Raptors.

The Nets ended a season-high, four-game losing streak in a close-fought contest.

New Jersey point guard Jason Kidd scored 13 of his 15 points in the fourth quarter and added 11 rebounds and six assists.

Antonio Davis had 27 points and 13 rebounds and a limping Vince Carter scored 21. All-Star Carter has not been the same since returning from a leg injury last month.

COMPLETE RESULTS

Sixers 104, Knicks 96; Nets 86, Raptors 84; Lakers 107, Hornets 66; Rockets 101, Supersonics 98; Pacers 115, Warriors 101; Heat 90, Suns 78; Spurs 98, Grizzlies 84; Bucks 110, Bulls 81. *Reuters*

Ucap tourney starts tonight

FIERCE cockfighting action resumes at 5 p.m. today as Mandaluyong Coliseum presents the 6th Ucap/TR Phoenix Hammer Jr. 7-Cock Derby championship round bannering 64 bigtime fights. Sponsors are Sagupaan Super Feeds and Washout Shampoo.

From a field of 43 entries, three bets stood out Tuesday night in the qualifying round after posting three victories apiece. These are Pasay Anniversary LCC (Joey Dy and Eric dela Rosa), Wak-wak Mactan (Wacky Salud) and What A Guy GF-BAN (Bobby Wong and Arnold Mendoza).

With two points each are BJ Greenwood and BJ Greenwood I, Roadmaster, Blue Blade JBB, San Rafael, San Pedro GP, BL Jojit 128, PE San Pablo Hammer, Arnis Master I, R and B Farm I, TR Phoenix BL, Binangonan, Clear Cut J-Cap, Super Gringo, GR Pather, Dynasty, Bumble Bee Balbina and Old Time Nevada.

The derby is being hosted by Mario Villamor, Tito Reyes, Benjie Lim and Wacky Salud.

Meanwhile, submission of weights to the upcoming "7th Ucap/Firebird Anito MB7-Cock Derby" is on Monday, March 18. The event, to be hosted by hotelier—sportsman Biboy Enriquez and Mauro Prieto, is set on March 19 and 21.

For inquiries, please contact 534-4110, 531-4003, 531-4005 and 535-2341.

F1 Club meeting

AVID fans of Formula One will congregate at the Hot Rod Bar and Café located at 2nd Floor of The Fort Entertainment Center, Fort Bonifacio, Makati on Sunday (March 17) when the F1 Club Live Philippines hosts an afternoon bash feting the 2002 Sepang Grand Prix, the second leg of the ongoing Formula One World Championships.

Interested parties may call or text the Xtremeworx secretariat at 0917-899-20-30.

BLAST FROM THE PAST

TODAY in 1989, Joann Chan posted 317 points in the single 70 meters to break the SEA Games archery mark of 315 in the 2nd National Training Games at the Rizal Memorial ballpark. Also today in 1990, Raul Villanobos scored 7.5 points to bag the Far East Bank Regional chess championship in Tacloban City.

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GRASSROOTS DEV'T

PSC calendars sports meets

By Marc Anthony Reyes

PUTTING order in Philippine sports begins with fixing the schedule of the country's many — and often inter-lapping — sporting events.

That's what PSC chair Eric Buhain is apparently doing when he announced yesterday the launching of the National Grassroots Development Program that will calendar all sports events from Palarong Pambansa to Batang Pinoy.

The events will culminate in what the PSC will call the Philippine National Open Championships, a synchronized national open championships of all national sports associations which will be called the "mini Southeast Asian Games," according to the PSC chief.

"The aim is to give direction to the full development of grassroots sports in the country by putting all mass-based events under one program," said Buhain. "We want to gear all activities toward a more comprehensive and wider involvement of the youth.

Under the NGDP, the Palarong Pambansa and CHED (Commission on Higher Education) national games will be held every summer, the Mindanao Friendship Games in November and Batang Pinoy every December.

Other sports events like the Summer Youth Training Camp, AFP-PNP Special Olympics, Prisaa, Uni-Games and Batang Lansangan will also be calendared in accordance to the program.

Buhain said all these events will lead to PNOC which the PSC plans to stage starting next year.

"From the National Open Championships, we hope to assemble the best athletes that will comprise the national pool and prepare for major international competitions," said Buhain. "It's going to be like a mini SEA Games."

With the transfer of school sports from the Department of Education to the PSC, the agency is now tasked to organized all major sports events to be held throughout the year.

Buhain said that by coming up with that program, the PSC hopes to "pinpoint the ills plaguing local sports, particularly the lack of a broad pool of new and fresh athletic talents."

FLYWEIGHT GOLD
Violito Payla of Team Caltex Philippines receives the flyweight gold medal from International Amateur Boxing Association (Aiba) Vice President Caner Doganeli during the awarding rites of the Prof. Anwar Chowdhry Cup in Baku, Azerbaijan. Harry Tanamor's gold medal win in the light flyweight division saw Team Caltex Philippines, headed by Abap Chair Emeritus Mel Lopez, Jr., capture the third team overall championship of the 27-nation world-ranking event.

SPORTSWATCH

Swim classes slated

THE BERT Lozada Swim School (BLSS), the country's premier swimming institution, is offering different swim programs fit for all ages and skill levels at more than 25 venues nationwide. The two-week BLSS swim courses for summer run from April 2 to June 14. Students can take any of four courses depending on their skill level: water safety, basic courses, advanced course and competitive course. All classes are conducted by highly trained instructors, most of whom have undergone safety training from the Philippine National Red Cross and some are members of the American Swimming Coaches Association. For more information on the BLSS' programs and venues, please call 563-5532.

Paralympian axed

SALT LAKE CITY—Germany's leading Paralympian was stripped of two gold medals and kicked out of the Winter Games after testing positive for a banned substance. The International Paralympic Committee said Tuesday that Thomas Oelsener tested positive for Methenolone, a muscle-building steroid. German team officials said they would fight the decision. Team physicians didn't dispute the accuracy of the test, but said they believed Oelsener's claim he didn't knowingly take Methenolone. *AP*

Derby 5th leg set

THE FIFTH leg of the Galleros de Manila 5-Cock Derby is set for March 16 at the Roligon Mega Cockpit with 75 quality fights expected. Hosting this event sponsored by Ninja Superfeeds are lawyer Romero Yu, Dennis del Rosario, Tiny Meneses, Gene Avendano and the trio of Marlon Ayuste, A1 Martija and Rommer Nipa. The Jimar entry of Manila-based cocker, Jimmyton Araneta, conquered the 4th leg of the Galleros de Manila circuit held last March 4 with his superbly conditioned hatch and roundhead crosses with a perfect score of five points. With three more derbies remaining, leading in the cocker of the year standings after four legs are Bobby del Rosario of Mangzee Gamefarm, Iking Araneta of the Hacienda Enara entry and the JM Intruder entry of Saipan-based cocker Jhun Marasigan with 13 points each.

Tyson gets license

ASHBURN, Virginia—Mike Tyson received a license to fight in Washington on a 3-0 vote by the D.C. Boxing and Wrestling Commission, setting the stage for June 8 bout with Lennox at the MCI Center. "We looked at the application that's what it is," vice chairman Michael Brown said after the vote Tuesday night. "It's an application for a boxing license, nothing more, nothing less. "It would be frivolous for us to stand up here and not be concerned about Mr. Tyson's past. ... We did that, we took those things into account and made the decision we made." The vote came at the end of a two-hour meeting that at times resembled a Tyson pep rally. The commission heard from about 60 speakers, and every single one of them supported licensing Tyson. *AP*

Interia beats 'em

JACK Interia beat his rivals to capture the Class O division of the Amba monthly bowling tournament held recently at GameworX inside the Festival Supermall in Alabang, Muntinlupa City. Interia, who represented the Intruders team, submitted a total of 215 pinfalls in the final round of the tournament to beat national team standout Al Dy of Areza Motors. Dy took first runner-up honors after compiling 170 pinfalls while Ricky Timbol finished second runner-up with 162 pinfalls. "I congratulate Mr. Interia for winning the title this month. It was a very exciting fight from start to finish," said Amba board of director Alfonso "Chito" Avecilla. Alex Vergara, Interia's teammate, won the Class A division while Riz Riego of Bowlinglingan topped the Class B division. Wins Qulambao of Shakshu took the Class C division title.

RACING TIPS

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Race 2—1. Stradivarius 2. Sealed With A Kiss 3. Arigato 4. Flying Indy

Race 3—1. Up Next 2. Academy Award 3. Dance in the Wind 4. High Octane/Real Tough 5. Sarangani Dancer

Race 4—1. Carlo's Charm 2. Sante Fe 3. Happy Return

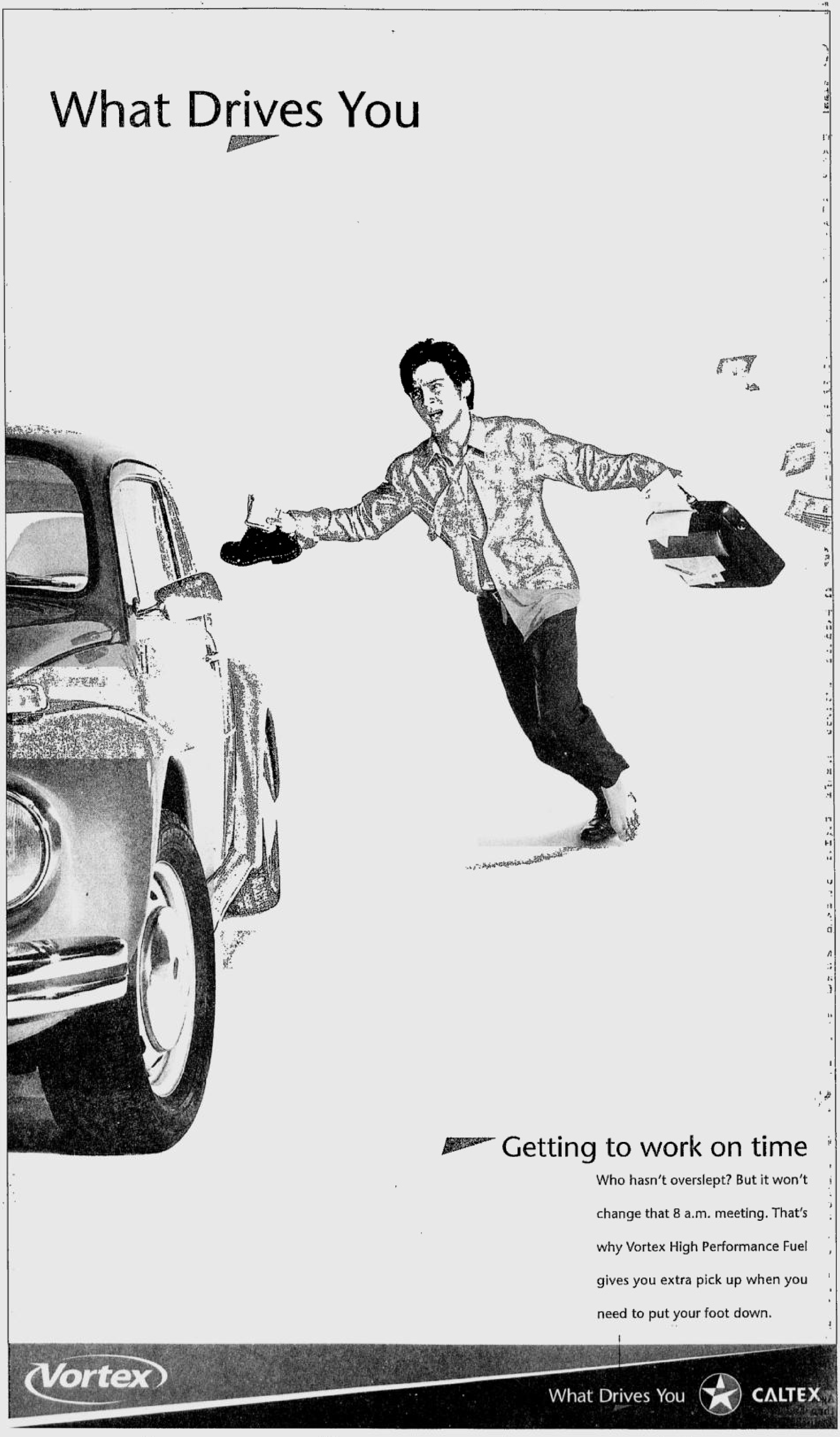
Race 5—1. Native Talent 2. Big Mama 3. Ray Moon 4. King Edward

Race 6—1. Action Mark 2. Easy Rider 3. High and Mighty 4. Very Sharp 5. Fountain of Gold 6. Pistol Red

Race 7—1. Korek Ka Dyan 2. Test Run 3. Lady Blaster 4. Snowy Sea 5. Ariana's Pride

Race 8—1. Hollywood Park 2. Cuadro de Alas 3. Mahdi's Gold 4. Secret Quest

Race 9—1. Something Silver 2. Despedida 3. Bull Strike 4. Waving Oscar 5. Lucky El 6. Nag-iisang Ikaw



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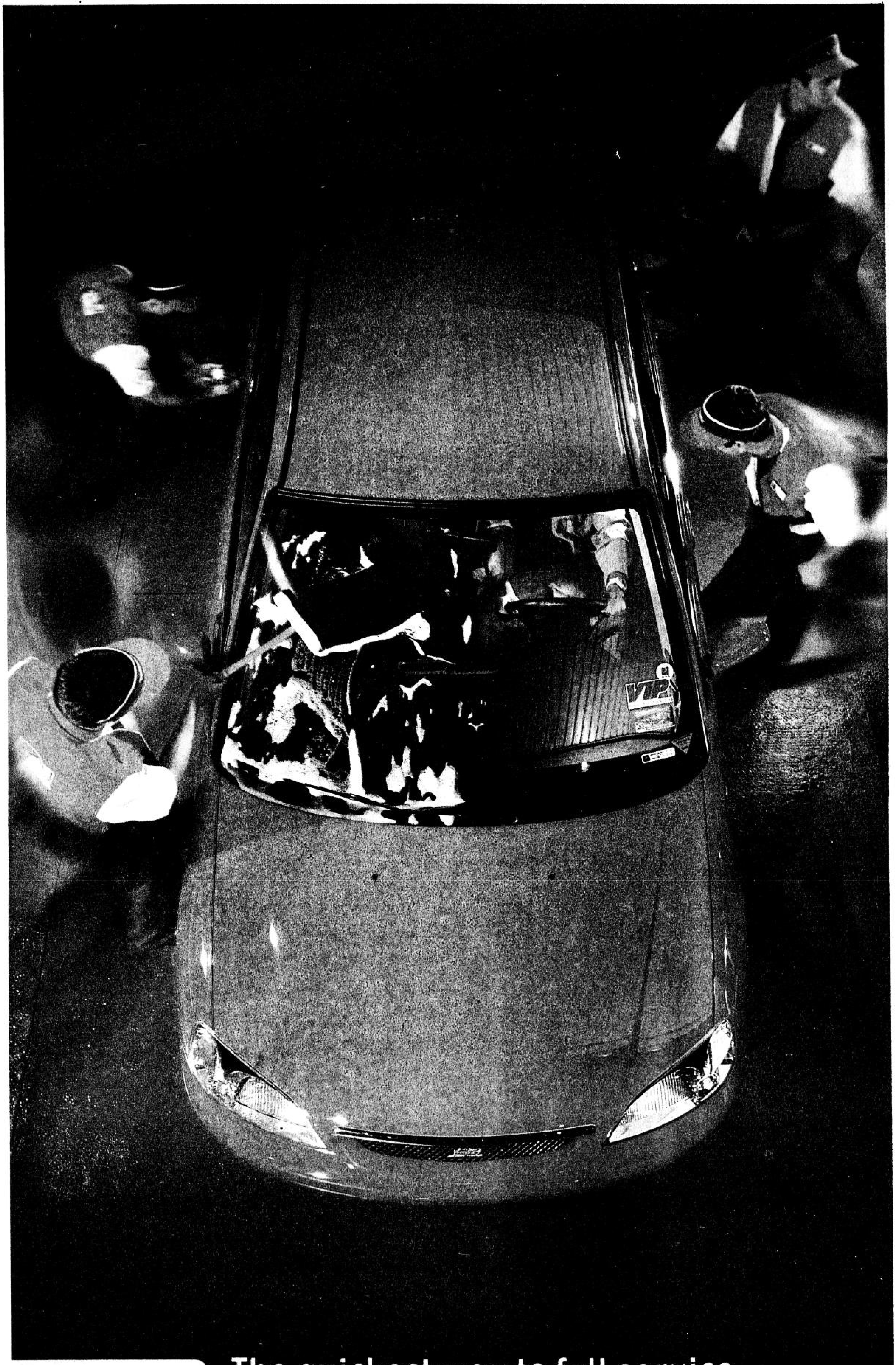

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Pusong Pinoy

PETRON

METRO

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

Death for 3 men in kidnap-slaying /A22

2 more tourist robbers killed

By Philip C. Tubeza

THE WESTERN Police District is again in a spot after two more suspected tourist robbers were found executed in Malate, Manila on Tuesday night.

This came a week after a man was summarily executed and dumped in front of Robinson's Place in Ermita. All three victims were alleged criminals who preyed on foreign tourists.

Police identified the two victims as Uri Lalic, 16, a driver, of 366 Valencia St. Sta. Mesa, Manila and Ramon A. Artigas, 26, jobless, of 975 San Sebastian St. Recto Avenue, Quiapo, Manila.

The victims were both barefooted and bore strangulation marks around their necks, said Detective David D. Tuazon, of the WPD-homicide section.

Lalic had welts on both wrists and multiple punctured wounds on his right chest. Artigas had a punctured wound on his left chest, Tuazon said.

A cardboard on top Artigas' body had the words "*Ako'y salot ng turista* (I'm a scourge of tourists)" written on it, Tuazon added.

He said the two victims were found around 11:45 p.m. Tuesday on the pavement of Aldegoa Street in Malate, Manila.

Witness Jorge Sulinap, 23, said he was walking along the street when he saw the cadavers.

WPD Director Chief Supt. Nicolas Pasinos Jr. ordered his men to stop the extra-judicial killings.

Pasinos said he has created two teams to go after the "vigilantes responsible for the death of two suspected snatchers/robbers."

He also directed Ermita police chief Supt. Manolo Martinez to intensify police patrols to preempt the recurrence of such incidents."

Sacked GMA 7 exec told to ready exit

GMA 7 executive Roberto "Bobby" Barreiro, who has been suspended since March 11, was told to prepare his exit plan as early as mid-February, according to a source inside the network.

In a meeting last month with GMA network president, chief executive officer and marketing chair and CEO Felipe L. Gozon, Barreiro was reportedly offered a severance package of 10 days salary for every year of service. He joined GMA in 1993 as senior vice president for network operations and marketing.

However, according to the source, the said package only applies to rank and file employees and not to the officers of the network.

Barreiro reportedly presented a counter offer of three months pay for every year of service. But Gozon was said to have told him, "I can even terminate you."

In the meeting, Gozon allegedly told Barreiro, "You're still young. You have a long career ahead of you, but I'm finding it hard to work with you. What's your exit plan? You better prepare it."

Gozon also told lawyer Dan Albert de Padua, GMA vice president for network operations and programming, to come up with his own exit package and join Barreiro in leaving the station.

De Padua, however, told the INQUIRER, "We have no reason to leave. We should get a severance package."

Gozon was unavailable for comment yesterday, when INQUIRER tried to reach him through his publicist.

Even when Barreiro's case was still being investigated, the source said Gozon already hired Manuel P. Quioge, formerly chief operating officer (COO) of Studio 23 who was temporarily appointed OIC of the Office of the President and COO of GMA Marketing. *Leah Salterio*

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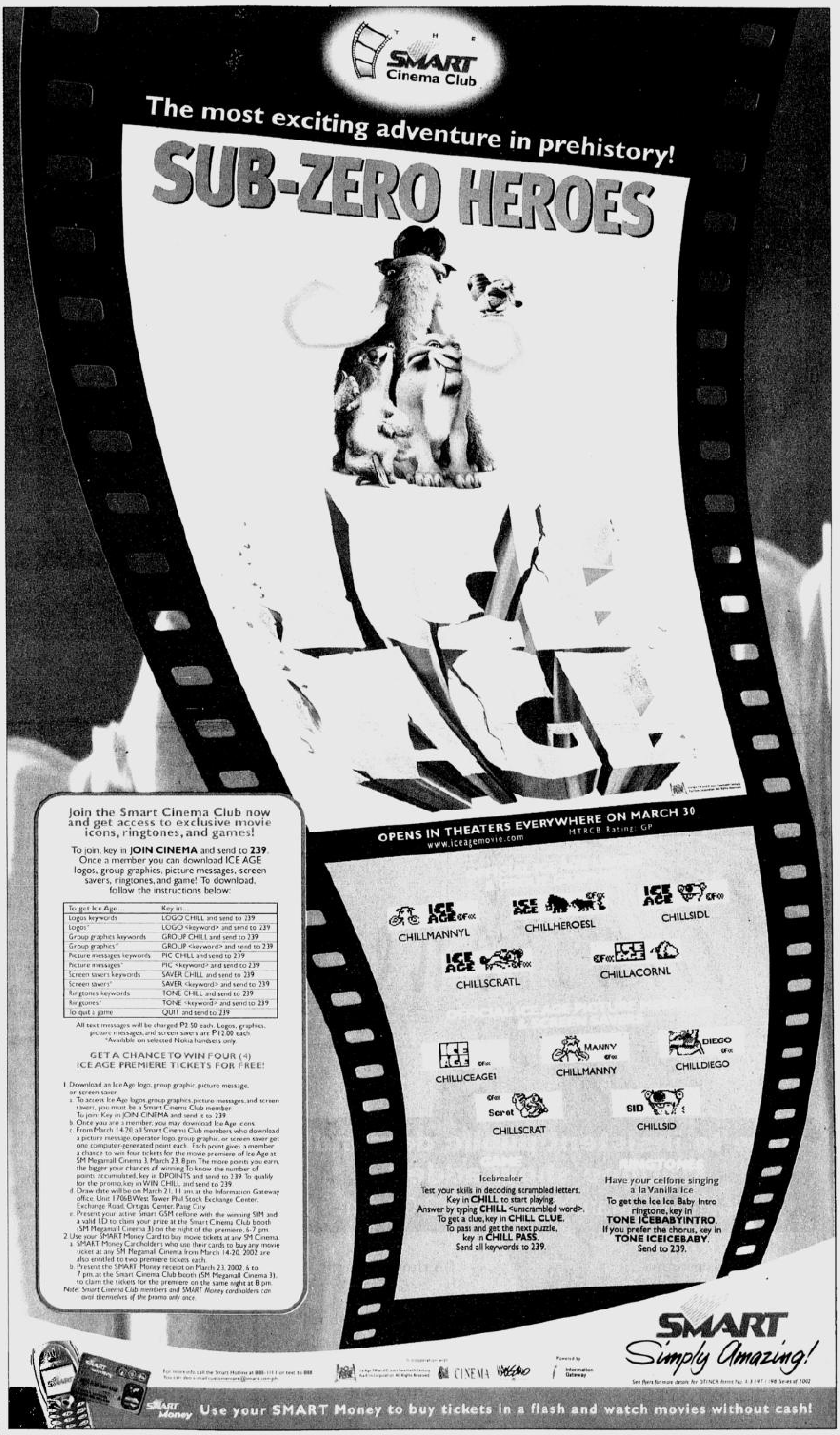

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CALTEX What Drives You

'Tell us our violations'

MANILA policemen yesterday cried harassment after they were finally ordered to explain the "prayer incident" held last month for their arbitrarily transferred colleagues.

"They should say what the charges against are and tell us what rules we violated," said SPO1 Virgo Villareal, spokesperson of the Manila's Finest Brotherhood Association Inc. (MFBAI). Chief Insp. Evangeline L. Candia, the inspectorate's chief, said the alleged prayer rally happened "using government time and without the approval of the district director."

Philip Tubeza

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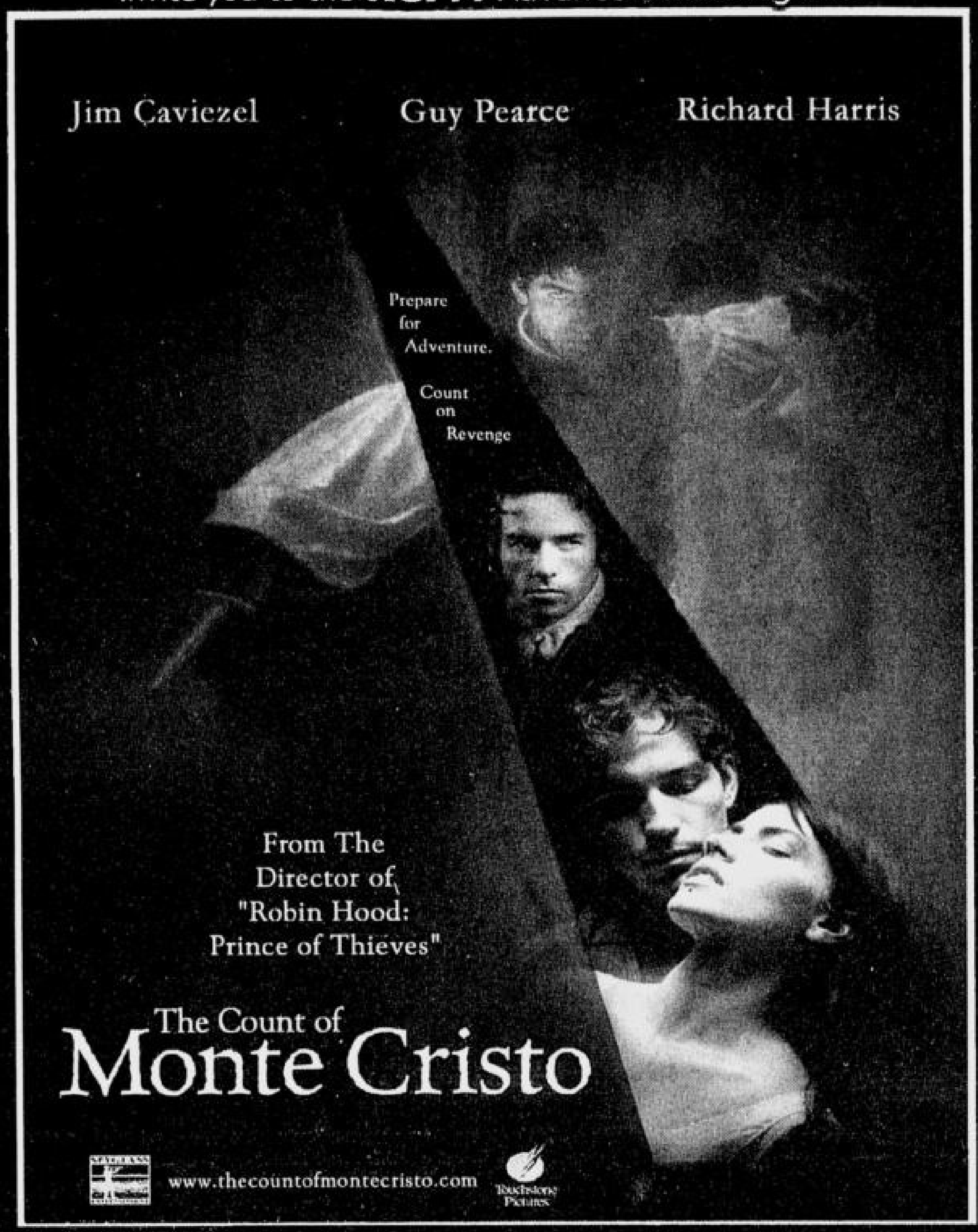

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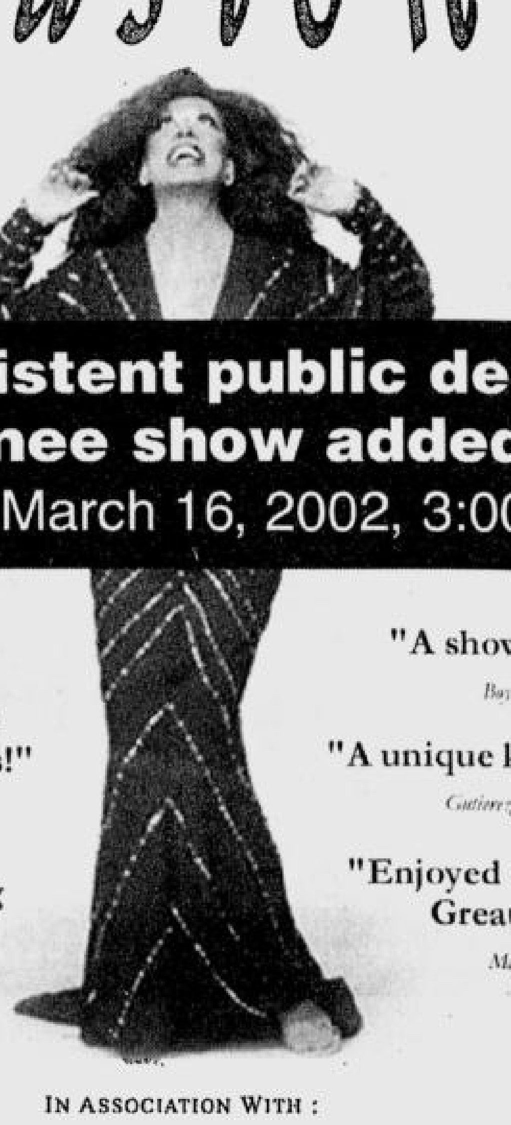

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Entertainment Editor, (PDI, March 1)

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Maricel Soriano

"A showstopper!"
Boy Abunda

"A unique kind of show!"
Gutierrez (Star Writer)

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BPS ENTERTAINMENT

Quick justice

By Philip C. Tubeza

A MANILA judge showed yesterday that criminals can still be punished swiftly, without having to resort to extra legal means.

Only after a day's trial, Judge Marivic T. Balisi-Umali of the Manila Regional Trial Court Branch 20 yesterday sentenced Lorens Lorica, 40, to a minimum of six years in prison for stealing the wallet of Italian tourist Paolo Lassi, 58, in Ermita, Manila.

Lorica was the beggar who refused to accept the P60 alms Lassi gave him and instead tried to flee with the foreigner's wallet, which had P4,000, credit cards, and US $400.

Umali yesterday issued her verdict, which found Lorica guilty of theft, and sentenced him to suffer six to eight years in prison.

The case was raffled to Umali's branch on Monday. She conducted the hearing on Tuesday from 10:30 a.m. to 2:30 p.m.

"This one is for the books. I was surprised that the verdict came out this soon," said SPO4 Mario Salonga, case investigator.

In her decision, Umali said she did not find credible the suspect's simple denial of the crime.

Lorica had alleged that he was set up and that the money bills found on him were just planted. He also admitted that he was the one who slapped Lassi a day before the incident, and that the tourist might have set him up as revenge.

Umali disagreed.

Lassi said that the accused slapped him because he refused to give Lorica P500. The accused allegedly even cursed the bewildered Italian.

"The accused admitted apologizing to the victim for the slapping incident. He also admitted asking money from the victim for his food and (Lassi), despite having been slapped the day before, willingly gave the accused money for his food," Umali said.

"(But) despite this Christian act, the accused still had the temerity to entertain the criminal design to grab the victim's wallet and get some bills," she added.

Umali, however, disagreed with the prosecution's contention that Lorica was guilty of robbery, saying that they failed to prove that the accused used force or intimidation against the foreigner.

Lassi had just come out of the Palm Plaza Hotel around 12:30 p.m. on March 6 when Lorica approached him.

The accused, of 4817 Solchauga St. Barangay Singkamas, Makati, asked for money.

Lassi said he was about to give P60 when Lorica suddenly grabbed his wallet, took its contents, and threw back the wallet to him.

Seeing his wallet empty, the Italian ran after the suspect, who fled.

Alert policemen however noticed the commotion and ran after Lorica. They caught up with him and later brought the suspect to the Western Police District headquarters.

The victim added that he was also having second thoughts about staying in the country. Lassi said he had initially planned to stay in Bohol.

Who's she?

THE BODY of a naked woman, who was shot twice in the head, was found in a dark portion under the Marcos Highway Bridge in Marikina City, police said yesterday.

PO2 Virgilio Cayetano, Marikina City police homicide investigator, described the woman to be in her late 20s or early 30s, fair-complexioned, of medium build and with shoulder length hair, and about 5'3" tall.

A pair of denim pants and black shoes, pink underwear, a handkerchief, and sleeveless T-shirt with red, white and black stripes were found beside the woman's body, police said.

The woman's body was brought to the King Funeral Home on J.P. Rizal Street in Barangay Concepcion.

Nelson Flores

Death for 3 in kidnap, slaying

By Carmela Reyes
PDI Central Luzon Desk

A BULACAN judge on Wednesday sentenced three men to death for the kidnapping and slaying of two Chinese-Filipinos in 1999.

In a 13-page decision, Judge Crisanto Concepcion of the Malolos regional trial court found Domingo Reyes, Alvin Arnaldo and Joselito Flores guilty of kidnapping and killing Chua Ong Ping Sim, 52, and her son Raymond Yao, 9, in July 1999.

The convicts formerly worked at the farm owned by the victims in San Jose del Monte City, Bulacan.

Court records showed that the convicts and three other suspects abducted Chua, Yao and seven other members of their household in front of the victims' farm in Sitio Lambakin, San Jose del Monte, at 11 p.m. on July 16, 1999.

The suspects later released the captives except for Chua and Raymond Yao.

Court records showed the suspects demanded a P5-million ransom for the woman and her son.

UP deadline

DEADLINE for the submission of nominations to the 2002 UP Alumni Awards is tomorrow, Friday. Interested parties are enjoined to submit 12 copies of the nomination papers and six copies of passport size pictures. Nomination forms are available at the UPAA Secretariat, Room 211,Ang Bahay ng Alumni, UP Diliman Campus, Quezon City.

Gov't should tag MILF int'l terrorists

ON TARGET
Ramon Tulfo

THE GOVERNMENT is deceiving itself when it tags the Moro Islamic Liberation Front (MILF) as just a rebel group fighting for the creation of a Moro nation.

The fact is that MILF, like its satellite groups Abu Sayyaf and Pentagon, is or was getting support from Osama Bin Laden's al-Qaida terrorist network.

Why does the government continue to pretend that MILF has ties to al-Qaida and Bin Laden? Only the government can give the answer.

***

If the government denounces the MILF as an al-Qaida-funded group, the Bush administration will include MILF as an enemy of the United States because of its ties to the terrorist group. Al-Qaida was believed responsible for the Sept. 11 attacks at the World Trade Center and the Pentagon.

Since the Macapagal-Arroyo administration has already asked for the help of the United States in fighting the Abu Sayyaf, it might as well seek US help in going after the MILF, which is protecting the Abu Sayyaf.

***

If you ask soldiers who fought the MILF in Maguindanao more than two years ago, they will tell you that some Afghanistan mujahideens fought alongside the Moros.

I talked to some members of the Philippine Marines Corps who took part in the fierce fighting for the capture of MILF's Camp Abubakar.

One Marine sergeant told me that he and his men chanced upon three Afghans who apparently got separated from the main rebel group in Camp Abubakar.

***

Listen to this hardy Marines tell the story which I have translated into English:

"It was already getting dark so my comrades and I decided to dig a foxhole to stay in for the night. We took off our uniforms while we were digging.

"From a distance, some guys shouted to us in English: "Where are the others?"

"We look at one another because the men had a peculiar accent, very much different from those of the Maranaws and Maguindanaos (the MILF is composed mostly of Muslims from Lanao, the Maranaws, and from Maguindanaos of Cotabato—RT) and they were Caucasians ("puti" was how the sergeant describe them—RT)."

The sergeant continued: "We beckoned them to come nearer which they did. We arrested them and we found out they were from Afthanistan)."

I asked the Marine sergeant what they did to the Afghans.

"We killed them right there and then, sir, and buried them," the sergeant said.

He said they were told by their superiors to keep mum about the incident as it might cause international repercussions.

***

President Macapagal-Arroyo should take the advice of Senate President Franklin Drilon to recall her appointments of Commission on Election chair Alfredo Benipayo and two other commissioners because of vicious infighting within the poll body.

The childish bickering among the poll commissioners, the first time in history, has cast doubt on the integrity of the Comelec.

Benipayo, Resurreccion Borra and Florentino Tuazon Jr., all Macapagal appointees, are pitted against "oldtimers" Luz Tangcangco, Ralph Lantion, Mehol Sadain and Rufino Javier, who are Erap appointees.

***

If the infighting within the Comelec continues, the barangay elections in May and the Sangguniang Kabataan elections next year are in danger of being postponed.

Down the road, the national elections in 2004 might be affected by the bickering within the collegial body.

The President can still recall the appointments of Benipayo, Borra and Tuazon because they have not yet been confirmed by the Commission on Appointments.

***

Let's not deal on which group is at fault, Benipayo's or Tancangco's.

Personally, I would side with Benipayo because I am biased for him. He was a very efficient court administrator at the Supreme Court. He attended with dispatch complaints against some court judges that my public service program brought before his office.

But Benipayo has become a square peg in a round hole at the Comelec. He should be appointed to another government post, perhaps one of the same level as his position at the poll body.

***

Our ambassador in Seoul, Juanito P. Jarasa, is doing his job of protecting Filipinos who are in South Korea.

I am witness to Jarasa's altruism toward his compatriots. My public service radio-TV program, "Isumbong mo kay Tulfo," referred the case of an unwilling "mail-order bride" to the Philippine Embassy in Seoul.

The unwilling bride-to-be, Fe Bustamante, sought my help because she didn't want her would-be bridegroom whom the Unification of Family Federation Church matched her with. She wanted to back out of the pre-arranged marriage, but the church, whose members are called "Moonies," demanded the refund of the cost of her airline ticket and other expenses.

***

Two days after I told Jarasa over the phone about Bustamante's plight, the Filipino mail-order bride was back in Manila.

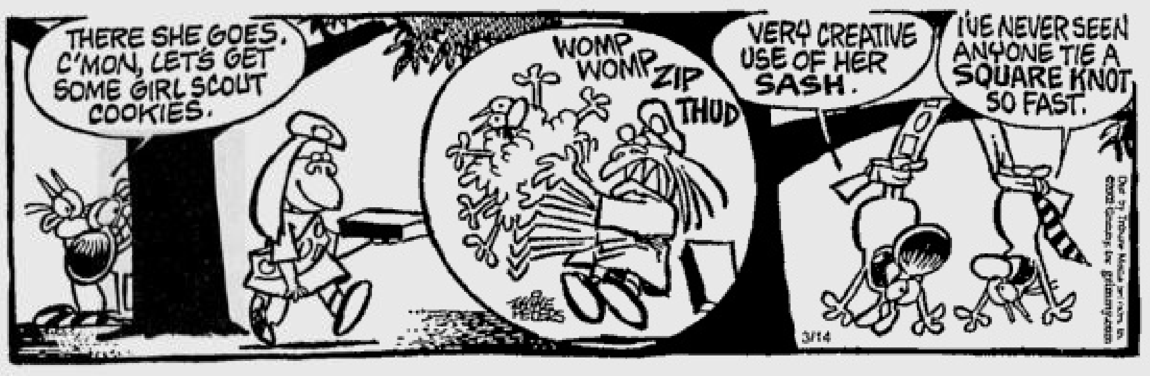
Bustamante said that she was sent packing in a hurry, motored to the Seoul airport, which is six hours from where she was staying, and made to take the first available flight to Manila, after the Philippine Embassy called up the church. Bustamante and other Filipino mail-order brides were being confined inside the church compound at Tong-il, South Korea, before the marriage ceremonies a month from now.

Apparently, the Moonies didn't want an international incident, so they released Bustamante.

Ambassador Jarasa, Mabuhay ka! We hope all our envoys abroad are as caring for their compatriots as you are.

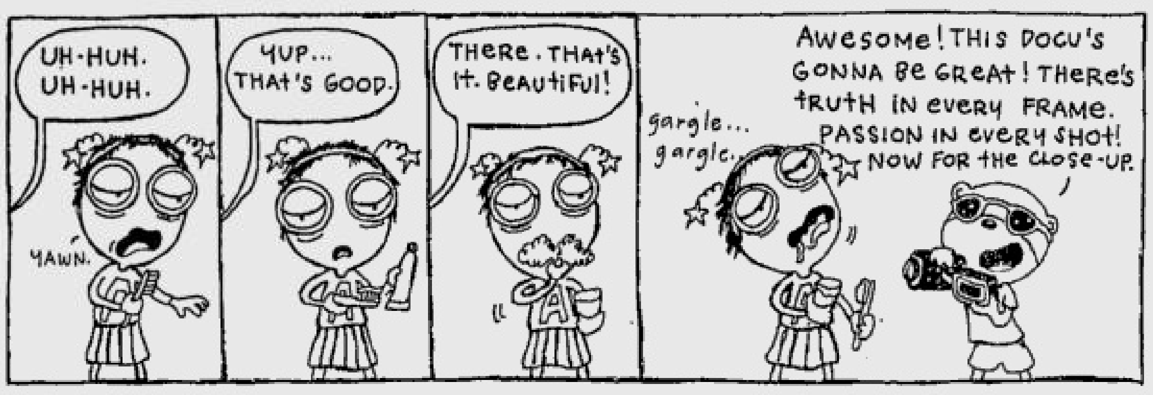
MOTHER GOOSE & GRIMM

BY MIKE PETERS


THERE SHE GOES. C'MON, LET'S GET SOME GIRL SCOUT COOKIES.
WOMP WOMP ZIP THUD
VERY CREATIVE USE OF HER SASH.
I'VE NEVER SEEN ANYONE TIE A SQUARE KNOT SO FAST.
3/14

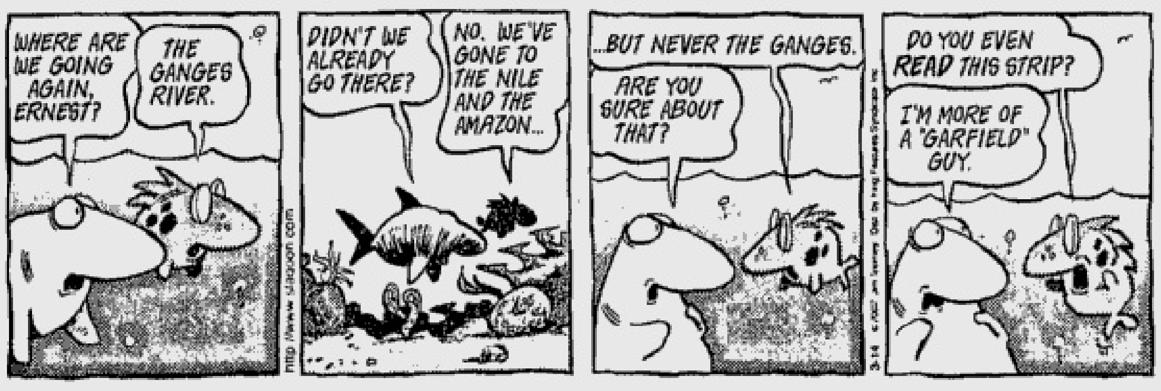
ATOMO AND WEBOY

BY LYRA GARCELLANO


UH-HUH. UH-HUH.
YAWN.
YUP... THAT'S GOOD.
THERE. THAT'S IT. BEAUTIFUL!
gargle... gargle.
AWESOME! THIS DOCU'S GONNA BE GREAT! THERE'S TRUTH IN EVERY FRAME. PASSION IN EVERY SHOT! NOW FOR THE CLOSE-UP.

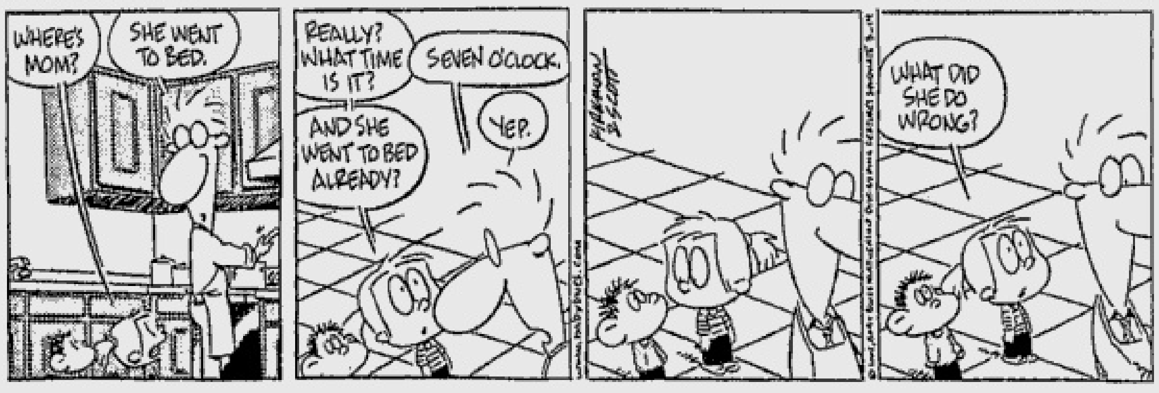
SHERMAN'S LAGOON

BY JIM TOOMEY


WHERE ARE WE GOING AGAIN, ERNEST?
THE GANGES RIVER.
DIDN'T WE ALREADY GO THERE?
NO. WE'VE GONE TO THE NILE AND THE AMAZON...
...BUT NEVER THE GANGES.
ARE YOU SURE ABOUT THAT?
DO YOU EVEN READ THIS STRIP?
I'M MORE OF A "GARFIELD" GUY.
http://www.slagoon.com

BABY BLUES

BY JERRY SCOTT


WHERE'S MOM?
SHE WENT TO BED.
REALLY? WHAT TIME IS IT?
SEVEN O'CLOCK.
AND SHE WENT TO BED ALREADY?
YEP.
WHAT DID SHE DO WRONG?

HOROSCOPE

BY EUGENIA LAST

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Billy Crystal, Quincy Jones, Albert Einstein

Happy Birthday: Your creative abilities will entertain those you meet along the way. Travel should be scheduled this year. It's time to prepare for new beginnings. This is a make it or break it period in your life so don't hesitate to follow that small voice within you. Your numbers are 13, 17, 23, 30, 41, 46

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Don't overspend on items for your home today. Take the time to sort through your ideas and instead of making a move, do a little research first.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20): Do a little investigating at work and you'll discover all sorts of information that could help you advance in your chosen field. Travel will lead to adventure and new friendships.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Opportunities at work will come and go quickly. You must be prepared to act fast if you want to take advantage of everything going on around you.

CANCER (June 21-July 22): The more engaged you become in physical and mental activities the better your day will go. Be creative and you will make headway.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22): Get out, make new friends and learn about the way other people do things. You will discover all sorts of interesting information if you listen to what others have to say.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): Don't be too impulsive when it comes to investments or spending your money on items or ideas that you are not one hundred percent sure of. Put a little extra time into getting to know someone who interests you a little better.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22): Focus on pleasing those around you today. You may be feeling a little sentimental. Don't let someone you care about get to you. He or she may just be in a bad mood.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): Mix a little business with pleasure today. If you get to know some of your colleagues better you will find it easier to do business with them. Listen to what they have to say but don't reveal too much about yourself.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You can make all sorts of personal changes today that will bring you greater popularity. Your strength will be admired.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Finish whatever you can before the noon hour. After that point it is best to tread carefully and avoid any altercations with someone who likes to argue with you.

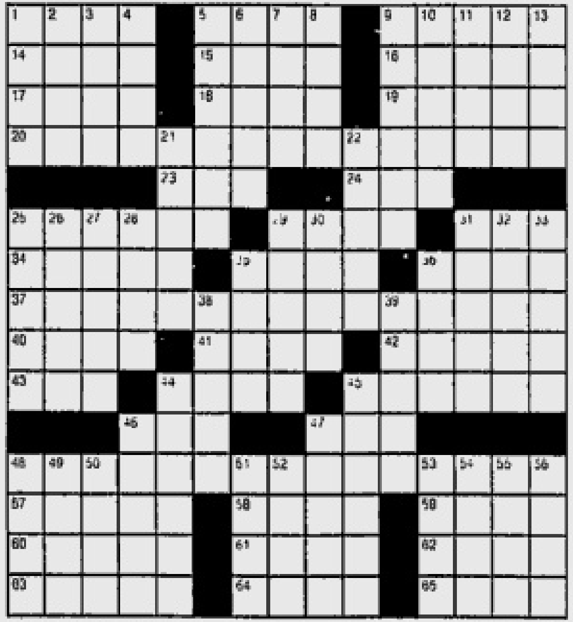
AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): Call up an old friend. You may be surprised to discover that you have more in common now than you did in the past. It's time to make positive changes.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): You have what it takes to change your existing situation. Nothing will happen if you don't take the initiative and pursue your dreams, hopes and wishes. Stop dreaming and start doing.

Birthday Baby: You are kind, sensitive and gentle. You are also gullible and can be taken advantage of. You are extremely imaginative and creative, and these qualities should be encouraged.

DAILY CROSSWORD

TMSPuzzles@aol.com



By Diane C. Baldwin
Columbia, MD

3/14/02

ACROSS
1 Court crier's word
5 Tenting site
9 Slalom incline
14 Used a shuttle
15 One of Adam's sons
16 Wreck completely
17 Checks out
18 Cast a ballot
19 Causes turbulence
20 Stay put!
23 Vein content
24 Cool down
25 On time
29 Grind in a university
31 See from afar
34 Weird
35 Your brothers to your father
36 Do farrier's work
37 Hold a pose
40 Celtic attire
41 Porter of note
42 Acoustic
43 Absolutely!
44 Auditorium seating
45 Frequency selectors
46 Two pool lengths
47 Jiffy
48 Immobilize
57 Florida key
58 Prickly pod
59 Burn soother
60 Broadcasting
61 Brainchild
62 Stare at stars
63 Main ideas
64 Stitched together
65 Yeses on yawls

DOWN
1 Was obligated to
2 Toy with a string
3 Uniform
4 Elan
5 Frolic
6 Beyond's partner
7 Apportion (out)
8 Entreaty
9 Clobbered
10 Unattached
11 Of the ear
12 Lose effectiveness
13 Otherwise
21 Driven or pedaled bike
22 Capital of Belarus
25 Irritating
26 Fix a knot
27 Thesis defenses
28 Coin plant
29 Tartan fabrics
30 In the past
31 Robin's Nottingham
32 Bear breed
33 Makes oneself heard
35 Put away gear
36 Astonish
38 Rifle attachment
39 Cranberry condiment
44 Sharp-edged instruments
45 Middle East capital
46 On the up-and-up
47 Scatter
48 Apply the whip
49 Indian royalty
50 Remarkable times
51 Kimono sashes
52 Stocking shade
53 Epic tale
54 Join the game
55 Slimy substance
56 Jerseys

Wednesday's Puzzle Solved

A	T	O	P	■	R	I	C	O	■	M	A	J	O	R
L	O	N	I	■	A	R	I	A	■	A	G	A	P	E
P	E	T	E	R	F	A	L	K	■	R	O	M	A	N
■	■	■	P	A	T	S	I	E	S	■	■	E	R	E
R	A	J	A	H	S	■	A	N	A	L	Y	S	T	S
O	L	I	N	■	M	A	T	■	D	O	U	G	■	■
A	I	M	■	T	A	L	E	S	■	C	L	A	S	S
M	E	R	G	I	N	G	■	I	N	H	E	R	I	T
S	N	O	R	E	■	A	C	R	E	S	■	N	E	O
■	■	C	A	U	L	■	R	E	X	■	D	E	V	A
H	O	K	Y	P	O	K	Y	■	T	H	E	R	E	S
E	L	F	■	■	B	I	P	E	D	A	L	■	■	■
A	D	O	B	E	■	L	T	C	O	L	U	M	B	O
T	I	R	E	S	■	T	A	R	O	■	D	E	A	L
S	E	D	G	E	■	S	L	U	R	■	E	L	S	E

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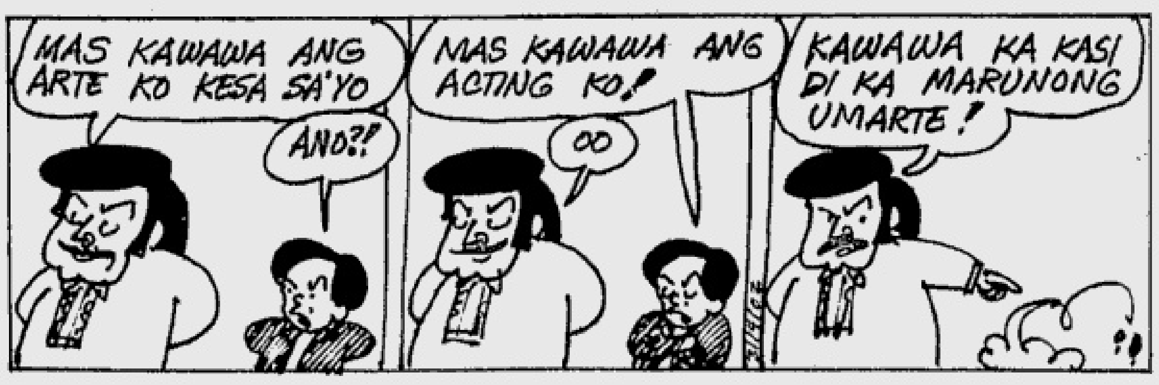
3/14/02

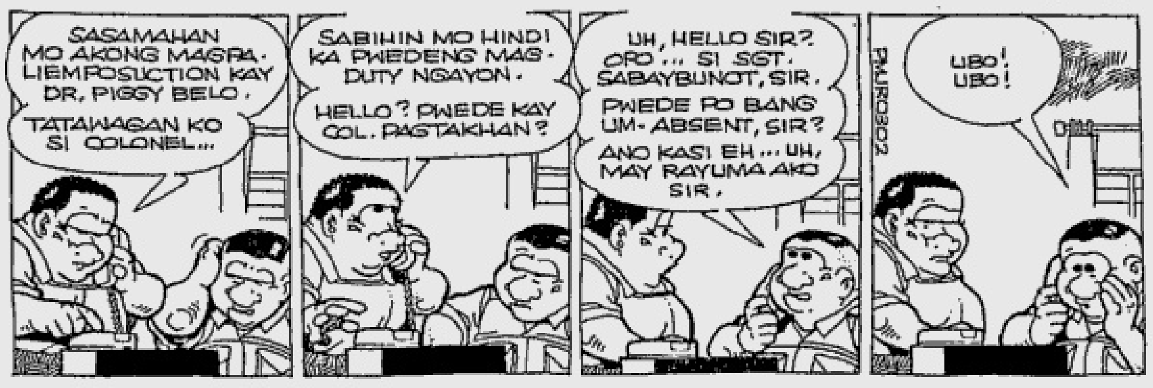
A. LIPIN

BY JESS ABRERA


MAS KAWAWA ANG ARTE KO KESA SA'YO
ANO?!
MAS KAWAWA ANG ACTING KO!
OO
KAWAWA KA KASI DI KA MARUNONG UMARTE!

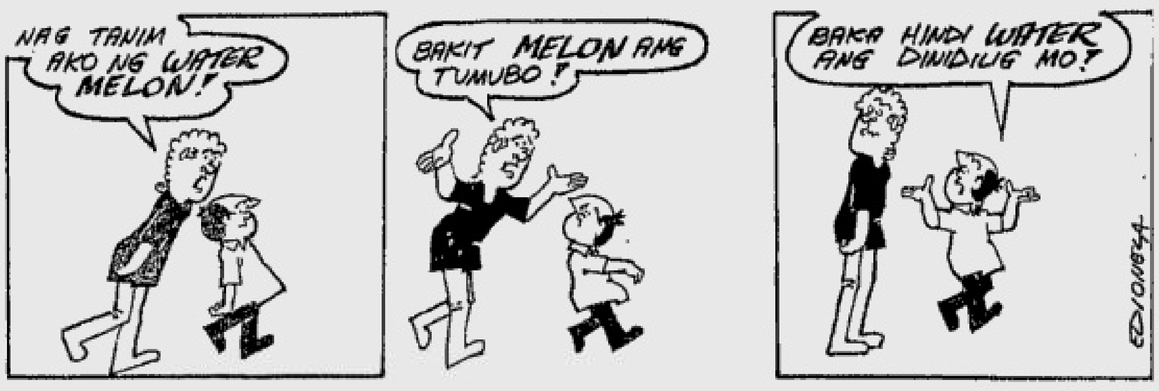
PUGAD BABOY

BY P.M. JUNIOR


SASAMAHAN MO AKONG MAGPA-LIEMPOSUCTION KAY DR. PIGGY BELO.
TATAWAGAN KO SI COLONEL...
SABIHIN MO HINDI KA PWEDENG MAG-DUTY NGAYON.
HELLO? PWEDE KAY COL. PASTAKHAN?
UH, HELLO SIR? OPO... SI SGT. SABAYBUNOT, SIR.
PWEDE PO BANG UM-ABSENT, SIR?
ANO KASI EH... UH, MAY RAYUMA AKO SIR.
UBO! UBO!
PMJR0302

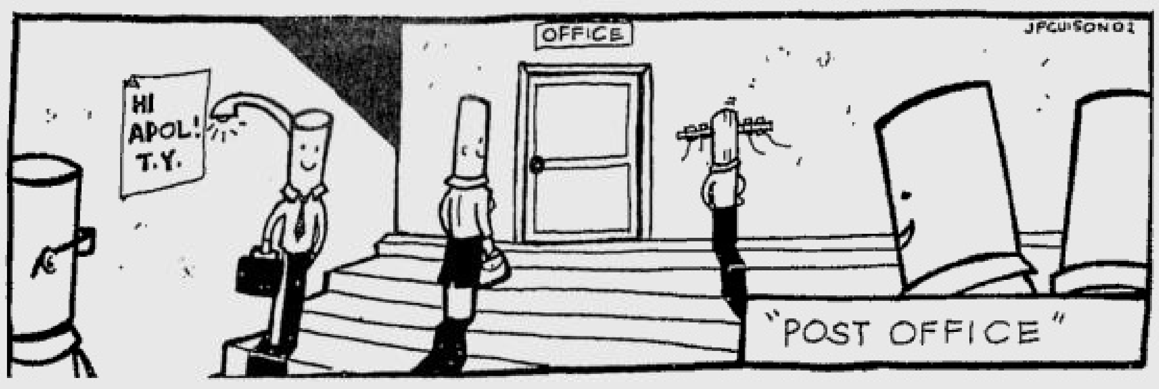
SIMO

BY EDGAR DIONELA


NAG TANIM AKO NG WATER MELON!
BAKIT MELON ANG TUMUBO?
BAKA HINDI WATER ANG DINIDILIG MO?
EDIONELA

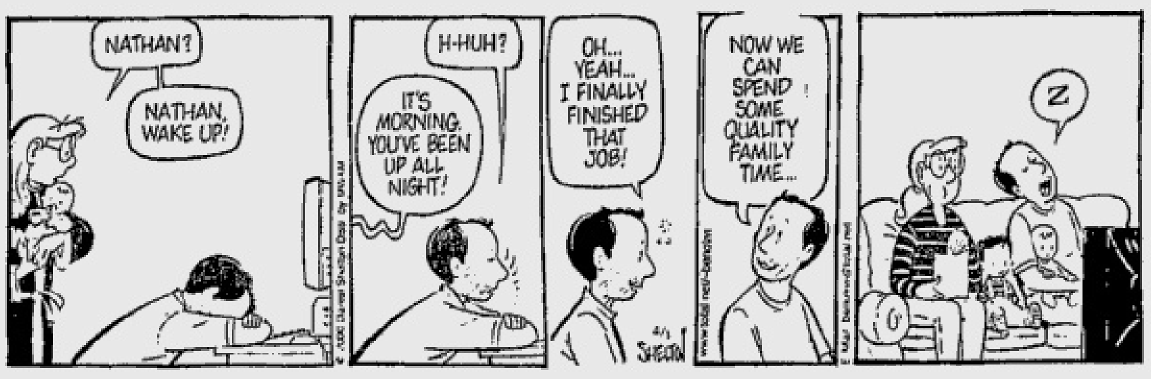
GARAPATA BLOOD

BY JOHN PAUL CUISON


OFFICE
JPCUISON02
HI APOL! T.Y.
"POST OFFICE"

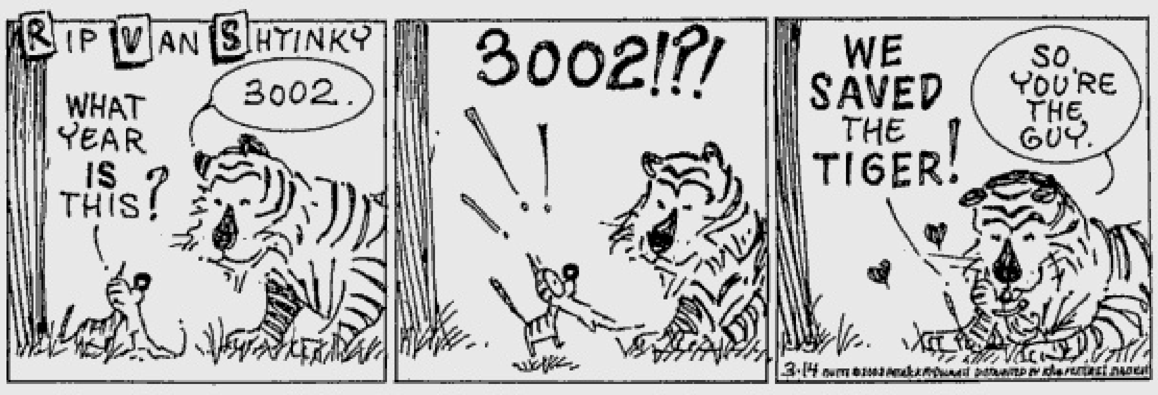
BEN

BY DANIEL SHELTON


NATHAN?
NATHAN, WAKE UP!
H-HUH?
IT'S MORNING. YOU'VE BEEN UP ALL NIGHT!
OH... YEAH... I FINALLY FINISHED THAT JOB!
NOW WE CAN SPEND SOME QUALITY FAMILY TIME...
Z

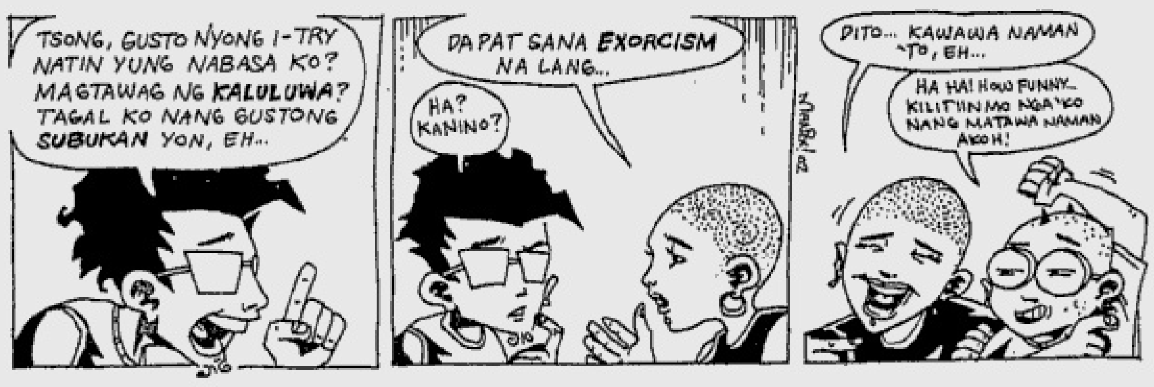
MUTTS

BY PATRICK McDONNELL


RIP VAN SHTINKY
WHAT YEAR IS THIS?
3002.
3002!?!
WE SAVED THE TIGER!
SO, YOU'RE THE GUY.
3·14

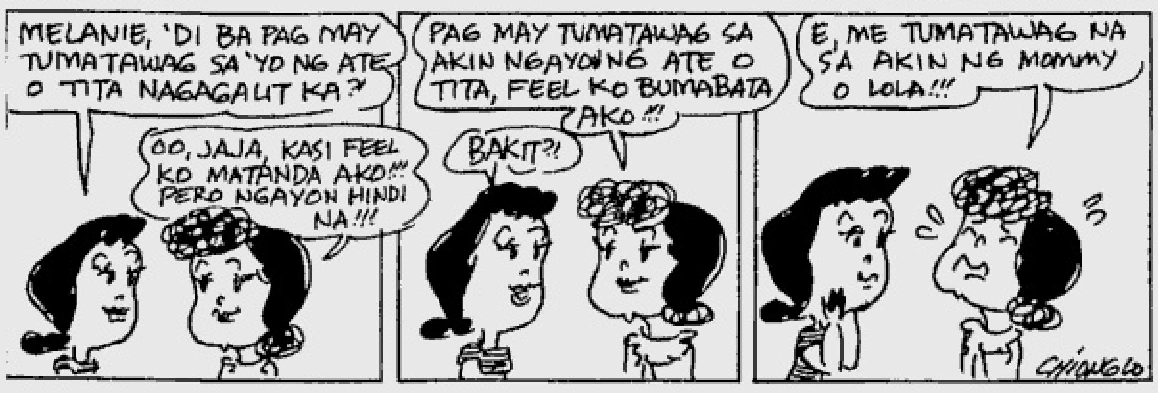
KIKO MACHINE

BY MANIX ABRERA


TSONG, GUSTO NYONG I-TRY NATIN YUNG NABASA KO? MAGTAWAG NG KALULUWA? TAGAL KO NANG GUSTONG SUBUKAN YON, EH...
DAPAT SANA EXORCISM NA LANG...
HA? KANINO?
DITO... KAWAWA NAMAN 'TO, EH...
HA HA! HOW FUNNY... KILITIIN MO NGA'KO NANG MATAWA NAMAN AKO H!

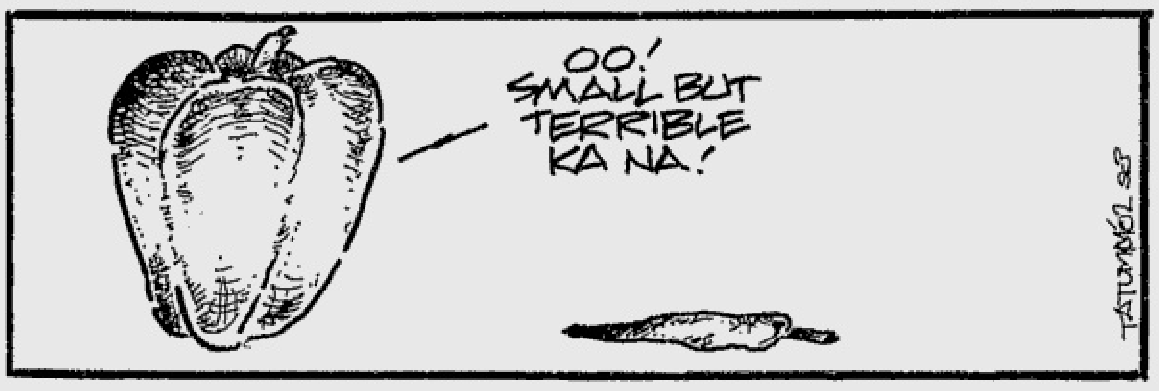
LOVEKNOTS

BY ELIZABETH CHIONGLO


MELANIE, 'DI BA PAG MAY TUMATAWAG SA 'YO NG ATE O TITA NAGAGALIT KA?
OO, JAJA, KASI FEEL KO MATANDA AKO!!! PERO NGAYON HINDI NA!!!
PAG MAY TUMATAWAG SA AKIN NGAYON NG ATE O TITA, FEEL KO BUMABATA AKO!!!
BAKIT?!
E, ME TUMATAWAG NA SA AKIN NG MOMMY O LOLA!!!
CHIONGLO

TULDOK

BY PAPU AND TATUM MILAMBILING


OO! SMALL BUT TERRIBLE KA NA!

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4173888

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2 BIBINGKA
3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4 D-TOX
5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 ESKANDALOSA
8 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

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4 13 GHOSTS
5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
7 D-TOX
8 BEAUTIFUL MIND
9 NOT ANOTHER TEEN
10 BIBINGKA

SM CITY FAIRVIEW
9350749

1 BIBINGKA
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3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE
7 WE WERE SOLDIERS
8 D-TOX
9 EVA
10 ESKANDALOSA
11 13 GHOSTS
12 NOT ANOTHER TEEN

SM CITY MANILA
5239240

1 D-TOX
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5 SHIPPING NEWS
6 ROYAL TENENBAUMS
7 EVA
8 SHALLOW HAL
9 GOT 2 BELIEVE
10 ESKANDALOSA
11 13 GHOSTS
12 NOT ANOTHER TEEN

SM MEGAMALL
6331901 • 6329401

1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 D-TOX
3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4 WE WERE SOLDIERS
5 SHIPPING NEWS
6 ROYAL TENENBAUMS
7 BIBINGKA
8 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
9 GOT 2 BELIEVE
10 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
11 NOT ANOTHER TEEN
12 13 GHOSTS

SM CITY NORTH EDSA
9295452

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 BIBINGKA
4 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
5 SHIPPING NEWS
6 D-TOX
7 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8 WE WERE SOLDIERS
9 CLOSED
10 CLOSED
11 CLOSED
12 CLOSED

SM SOUTHMALL
8066888

1 ROYAL TENENBAUMS
2 SHIPPING NEWS
3 WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 D-TOX
5 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
6 ESKANDALOSA
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
9 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
10 BIBINGKA

SM CITY CEBU
2313876

1 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2 RAT RACE
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 MILLION DOLLAR MANSION
5 SHALLOW HAL
6 ESKANDALOSA
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 13 GHOSTS

SM CITY ILOILO
3209422

1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 CLOSED
3 13 GHOSTS
4 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
5 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
6 ALI
7 CLOSED
8 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CITY PAMPANGA
7128015

1 13 GHOSTS
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 ALI
4 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
5 ESKANDALOSA
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM SUPER CTR. SUCAT
8294975

1 BIBINGKA
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE

SM CINEMA GUADALUPE
8820984

1 BIBINGKA
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

SM CINEMA TUTUBAN
2514302

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 EVA

SM CITY DAVAO
2976988

1 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 SHALLOW HAL
4 ESKANDALOSA
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 13 GHOSTS

SM BICUTAN

1
2
3
4

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4 NEW
STATE-OF-THE-ART
VISION & SOUND

SM CITY CAGAYAN DE ORO

1
2
3
4

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VISION & SOUND

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1
2

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4 GOLD (DTS) D-TOX
5 GOLD (DOLBY) ROYAL TENENBAUMS
6 GOLD (SDDS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7 GOLD (DOLBY) SHIPPING NEWS
8 GOT 2 BELIEVE
9 13 GHOSTS
10 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

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1
2 EVA
3 (DTS)
4
5
6 (DTS)
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Masagana CINEMA
(Pasay) tel 833.3274

1 BIBINGKA
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 EVA

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1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 EVA
4 (DOLBY DIGITAL) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5 BIBINGKA

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tel 850.4285

1 EVA
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BIBINGKA
4 WE WERE SOLDIERS
5 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
6 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
7
8

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1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Center Plaza Cinema
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1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE

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1
2 EVA
3 BIBINGKA

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1 EVA
A QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

Sunshine
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1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 RESERVE
4 EVA

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Gotesco City
(Manila) tel 734.8568

1 (DOLBY) D-TOX
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 BIBINGKA
5 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
6 EVA
7 (DTS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8 (SDDS) WE WERE SOLDIERS
9 (DOLBY) SHIPPING NEWS

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2 BIBINGKA

Gotesco Grand Central
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1 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
2 BIBINGKA
3 EVA
4 (SDDS) D-TOX
5 GOT 2 BELIEVE
6 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
7 (DTS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8 ESKANDALOSA
9 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE

Gotesco Commonwealth
tel 951.0083

1 (DTS) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 EVA
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 (SDDS) D-TOX
6 BIBINGKA
7 (DOLBY) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
8 ESKANDALOSA

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1 EVA
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 (DTS) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
4 BIBINGKA
5 (SDDS) D-TOX

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(Cubao) tel 911.7888

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Dilson
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Jennet RESERVE

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1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 EVA

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3 RESERVE

Isetann Cinerama Complex Recto
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1 (DOLBY) QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 EVA
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE
5 BIBINGKA

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DIVISORIA CINEMA
tel 244.4619

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE
3 RESERVE
4 RESERVE
5 RESERVE
6 RESERVE

FRC Cinema
Talaba Bacoor Cavite

1 EVA
2

Berma
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1 EVA
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

CitiMall
(Parañaque) tel 820.7269

1 RESERVE
2 RESERVE

CINEMA 2000

Cinema 2000 Target Mall
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1 ESKANDALOSA
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 (DTS) D-TOX

Cinema 2000 Waltermart
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1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DTS) LORD OF THE RINGS
3 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
4 D-TOX

Cinema 2000 Pavilion Mall
(Biñan) tel (049) 411.1146

1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 (DTS) D-TOX
4 LORD OF THE RINGS

Cinema 2000 Cinemagix
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1 COLLATERAL DAMAGE
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 SOON TO OPEN
4 SOON TO OPEN

Cinema 2000 MetroTown
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1 GOT 2 BELIEVE
2 ALI
3 (DOLBY) SHALLOW HAL
4 (DTS) RIDING IN CAR

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2 BIBINGKA
3 EVA
4 (DTS) EARTHQUAKE

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1 (DOLBY) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) D-TOX
4 ESKANDALOSA
5 LORD OF THE RINGS

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1 D-TOX
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 ESKANDALOSA

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1 D-TOX
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 ESKANDALOSA

Olivarez Tagaytay
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1 VANILLA SKY
2 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
3 HINOG SA PILIT

Morales Cinema
(Biñan) tel (049) 511.9736

1 THE OTHERS
2 WE WERE SOLDIERS
3 RESERVE

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1 (DTS) RESERVE
2 (DTS) ESKANDALOSA

Fourstep
(Cavite) tel (046) 416.2385

1 RESERVE

Emperor
(Rosario Cavite) tel (046) 438.1657

1 ESKANDALOSA
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN

Fiesta World Mall
(Lipa) tel (043) 981.0790

1 ALI
2 13 GHOSTS
3 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
4 ESKANDALOSA

Jade Cinema
(Angeles City) tel (045) 887.5001 to 03

1 (DOLBY EX) WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 GOT 2 BELIEVE
3 (DTS) ALI
4 13 GHOSTS

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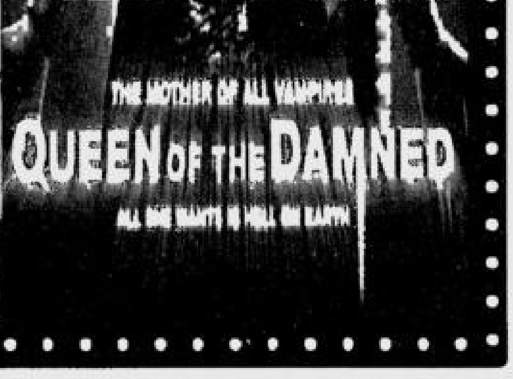

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3 D- TOX
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5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS
7 SHALLOW HAL
8 GOT TO BELIEVE
9 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
10 BEAUTIFUL MIND

Ermita
536 -7809- 12

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 THE SHIPPING NEWS
3 D- TOX
4 GOT TO BELIEVE
5 THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS
6 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
7 WE WERE SOLDIERS

Metro East -
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1 D- TOX
2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
3 THE SHIPPING NEWS
4 BEAUTIFUL MIND
5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
7 GOT 2 BELIEVE
8 13 GHOSTS

Novaliches
935- 3229 - 30

1 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
2 BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 13 GHOSTS
5 WE WERE SOLDIERS
6 D- TOX
7 THE SHIPPING NEWS
8 SHALLOW HAL

Imus
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1 WE WERE SOLDIERS
2 EVA
3 D- TOX
4 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
5 THE SHIPPING NEWS
6 GOT 2 BELIEVE

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1 13 GHOSTS
2 SHALLOW HAL
3 GOT 2 BELIEVE
4 BEAUTIFUL MIND
5 MARSHALL DICK
6 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES

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2 BEAUTIFUL MIND
3 BATAS NG LANSANGAN
4 MOTHMAN PROPHECIES
5 ESKANDALOSA
6 THE OTHERS

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2 WE WERE SOLDIESRS
3 ESKANDALOSA
4 ALI
5 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
6 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

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P 13

CINEMA 2
A BEAUTIFUL MIND
11:00, 1:45, 4:30, 7:15, 10:00
P 13

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Rockwell Center, Makati City ☎ Tel. No: 898|440-41 DOLBY DIGITAL SURROUND-EX

D-TOX - R 18 11:50, 1:45, 3:40, 5:35, 7:40, 9:45	ROYAL TENENBAUMS - P 13 12:00, 2:20, 4:40, 7:00, 9:30	WE WERE SOLDIERS - P 13 1:00, 4:00, 6:55, 9:50
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED - P 13 12:50, 3:05, 5:20, 7:35, 9:50	SHIPPING NEWS - P 13 12:50, 3:10, 5:30, 7:50, 10:10	A BEAUTIFUL MIND - P13 11:20, 2:00, 4:40, 7:20, 10:00

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ALI MALL CINEPLEX-2	EBE LASON KAY ADAN
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-3 (DDS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMMED
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-4 (SDDS)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-5 (DTS)	D - TOX
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-6 (DOLBY)	SHIPPING NEWS
ALI MALL CINEPLEX-7 (DOLBY)	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
FARMERS PLAZA-1 (DOLBY)	BIBINGKA
FARMERS PLAZA-2 (DOLBY)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
FIESTA CARNIVAL	
NEW FRONTIER	

MANILA

EASTERN	
MAXIM	CLOSED
MIRAMAR	HUBOG / TOO MUCH FLESH
ODEON	WE WERE SOLDIERS
ODEON-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
ROBEN	ESKANDALOSA
TANDEM-1	SEX MEDUSA
TANDEM-2	SEX EDUCATION
TIMES	OTHER SIDE OF LOVE / AMERICAN PIE 2

QUEZON CITY

ACT-1	SENSUAL ISLAND
ACT-2	KAYA KO PERO MASAKIT
ACT-3	CLOSED
ACT-4	CLOSED
CORONET-2	ORIGINAL SIN
QUEZON-1	ESKANDALOSA
REMAR	ESKANDALOSA
REMAR-2	BATAS NG LANSANGAN

NOVA MALL - NOVALICHES CINEMA

A	BIBINGKA
B	EVA LASON KAY ADAN
C	

MANDALUYONG CITY

SHANGRI-LA PLAZA MALL	635-20-79 / 633-78-51 TO 70
CINEMA-1	A BEAUTIFUL MIND
CINEMA-2	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED

CAINTA RIZAL

STA. LUCIA EAST	(681-5401 TO 19)
CINEMA-1	BATAS NG LANSANGAN
CINEMA-2	ESKANDALOSA
CINEMA-3	BIBINGKA
CINEMA-4 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-5 (DTS)	NOT ANOTHER TEEN MOVIE
CINEMA-6	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-7	EVA
CINEMA-8	COLLATERAL DAMAGE
CINEMA-9 (DTS)	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-10 (DOLBY DIGITAL)	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-11 (SDDS)	D TOX
CINEMA-12	SHIPPING NEWS
CINEMA-14	GOT 2 BELIEVE
CINEMA-15	BEAUTIFUL MIND

LORES

CINEMA-2	CLOSED
CINEMA-3	CLOSED

POWER PLANT CINEMA

CINEMA-1	D-TOX
CINEMA-2	ROYAL TENENBAUMS
CINEMA-3	WE WERE SOLDIERS
CINEMA-4	QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
CINEMA-5	SHIPPING NEWS
CINEMA-6	A BEAUTIFUL MIND

UNIWIDE METROMALL

(LAS PINAS)	
CINEMA-1	
CINEMA-2	
CINEMA-4	

UNIWIDE COASTAL MALL

(PARANAQUE)	
CINEMA-1	ALIPIN NG TUKSO
CINEMA-2	THE OTHER SIDE OF LOVE
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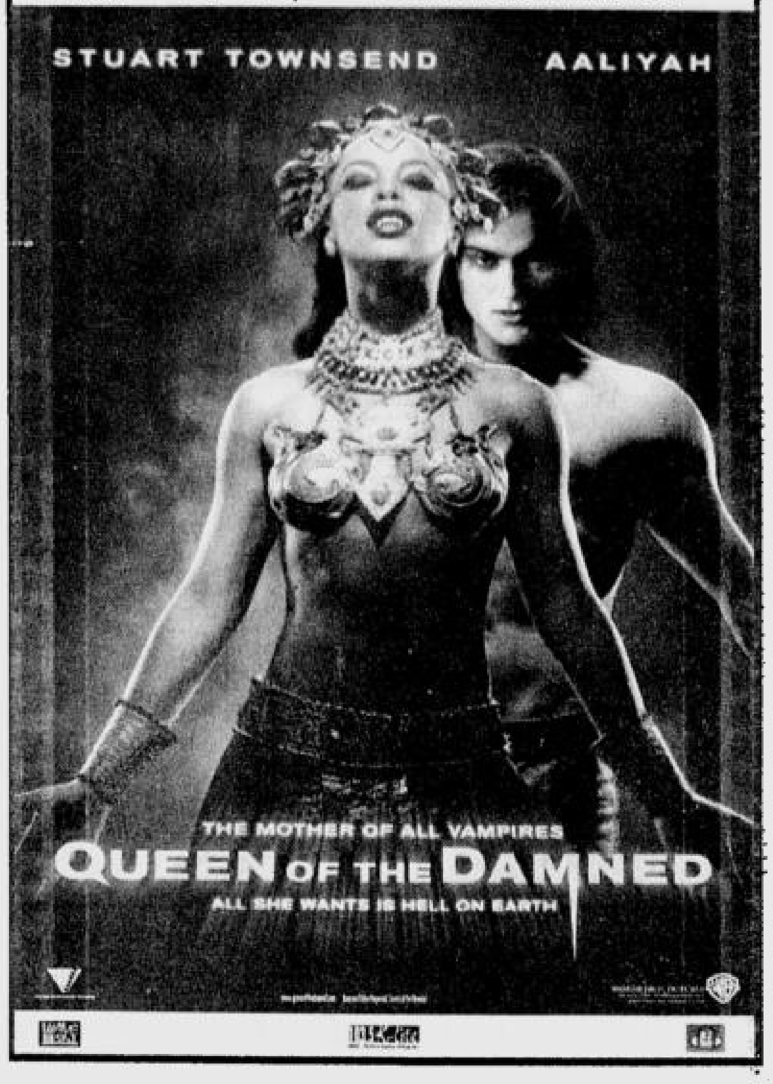
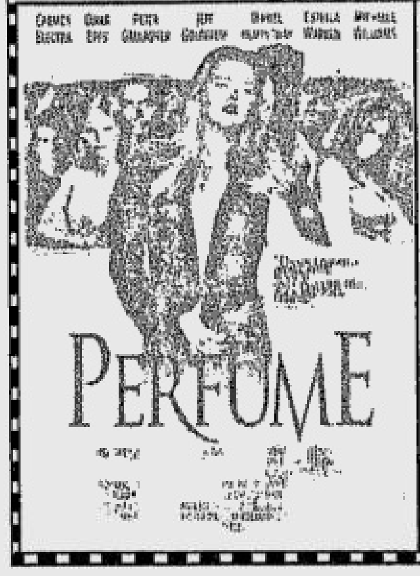
MTRCB RATING **PG-13** Children below 18 yrs.old will only be allowed if accompanied by a parent or adult


STUART TOWNSEND
AALIYAH
THE MOTHER OF ALL VAMPIRES
QUEEN OF THE DAMNED
ALL SHE WANTS IS HELL ON EARTH

AYALA CINEMAS

ARTFILM · GREENBELT
OPENS MARCH 20 (Wed.)



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-- Janice Crawford,"V"Magazine

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2 WE WERE SOLDIERS	2 A BEAUTIFUL MIND	5 D-TOX	2 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED	2 THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS
3 D-TOX	3 QUEEN OF THE DAMNED THX GUARANTEED SEATS	6 THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS	3 THE ROYAL TENENBAUMS	3 A BEAUTIFUL MIND
4 GOT 2 BELIEVE		7 THE SHIPPING NEWS	4 Onstage ILLUSIONE MARCH 14, 15, 16	4 THE SHIPPING NEWS
				5 WE WERE SOLDIERS

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Regular showing on Mar. 20 at the SM CINEMAS.

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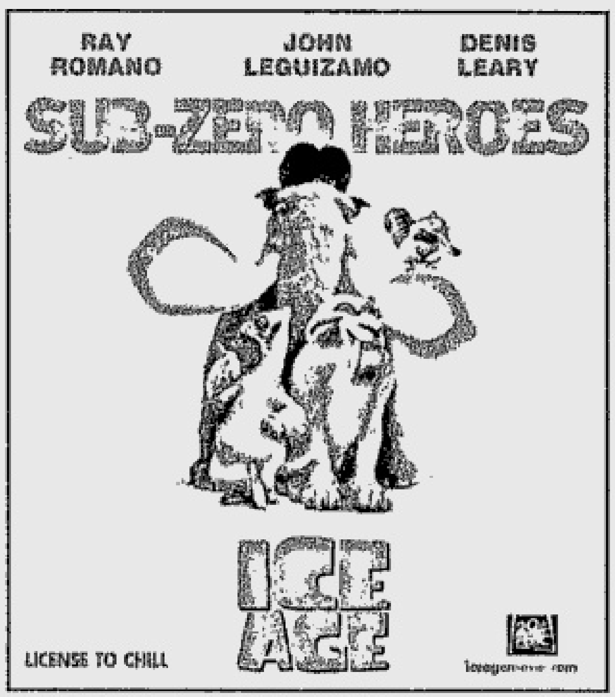

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Touchstone Pictures

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ENTERTAINMENT

Editor **Louie C. Camino**

BORN to entertain, the young man formerly known as Billy Joe Crawford is on his way to international stardom.

JOHNNY VILLENA

Billy Crawford drops 'Joe,' picks up Hollywood

By Leah Salterio

HOLLYWOOD, here comes Billy Crawford!

When the "Exorcist" prequel, "Exorcist: Dominion" hits US screens next summer, 19-year-old Fil-Am singer-actor Billy Crawford (he dropped the Joe) gets stellar billing along with Hollywood stars Liam Neeson and Ryan Philippe.

In May, Billy will leave for London to start rehearsing for the movie, to be directed by John Frankenheimer whose credits include "French Connection II," "Ronin," and the classic 1962 Cold War thriller, "The Manchurian Candidate."

Filming from July to September of the "Exorcist" prequel will also take Billy to Spain and Africa, the actual backdrop of "Exorcist: Dominion."

The script, written by novelist Caleb Carr ("Angel of Darkness," "The Alienist"), tells about the first encounter of Father Merrin (Neeson) with the devil in Africa. Billy is cast as the kid who is possessed by the devil and who is tasked to convince Merrin that there is no God.

"It's the Linda Blair role for the millennium," Billy tells the INQUIRER in an interview at the Penthouse of Manila Galleria Suites.

Billy landed the role through an open casting call made by Warner Bros.

"I had to go through 15 weeks of extensive auditions in New York and LA," Billy shares. "After I sent my VTR, I met a casting agent, then I was called for reading and screen test with John Frankenheimer. When I came face to face with him, I was star-struck because I knew he was the one who directed Robert De Niro in 'Ronin'."

Interestingly, the original script called for a black young actor to star with Neeson.

"I don't know what made them change their mind," Billy says. "But it worked to my advantage."

"Exorcist: Dominion" will be shown in the Philippines late next year.

His Hollywood break will bring him further away from his earlier roles in local movies, like "Pahiram ng Isang Umaga" where he was Vilma Santos' son, "Isang Dakot ng Bala" with Rudy Fernandez and "Lost Command" with Bong Revilla Jr. But Billy looks back at his Philippine show biz career with fondness, including his stint in German Moreno's "That's Entertainment"?

No longer 6

In fact, up to this day, people who run into him at the malls recognize Billy. "They are surprised to see me this tall," he says. "Some of them even tell me, '*O, hindi ka na* chubby!' I want to tell them, 'I'm no longer 6, I'm turning 20!"

Billy is also eternally grateful to his mentor, *Kuya* Germs, who helped him launch his show biz career.

"I was in 'That's Entertainment for eight-and-a-half years. He (German) was the one who started everything for me. I will never forget that."

Billy migrated to the United States with his mom Marietta in the mid-'90s.

"I don't see myself having a career outside show biz," he says. "Show biz runs in my blood since I was young. I guess I was born to entertain."

Top 10

Before he leaves for Europe, he completed his second album, "Ride," released by BMG Records Pilipinas, the same outfit which produced his recording debut three years ago.

"Ride" is due for release in April in Europe, the Philippines and the rest of Asia. It is bannered by the first single, "Trackin'," currently No. 5 in the European singles charts. The CD single has also been on the European Top 10 for 15 weeks now, with 350,000 copies sold.

"Ride" features 12 all-original songs in pop, soul and R&B. The selections include the romantic ballad, "When You're in Love With Someone," the mid-tempo love song "I Wish" and the old disco remix of "That's the Way Love Is."

His album promo will take Billy to Germany and France, where he will shoot his new MTV for "When You Think About Me."

Singing and dancing since he was a toddler, Billy has attained a new maturity in his second release. He even wrote the title track, "Ride" with Eve Nelson, and a few other cuts.

"I really feel I'm a bit more mature than other 19-year-old guys," he says. "I guess it's because I learned to do a lot of things at an early age. In the US, I have no *alalay*. I do my own laundry, clean my room and I drive.

"When I'm onstage, I always love energy in my shows, when I can give 110 percent just singing my heart out and giving my all. It doesn't matter if there's a clown running behind me. I'm gonna get the audience to really notice me."

Always Pinoy

He laments, however, that some write-ups about him in Europe and the US referred to him as an Australian or American.

"That's strange because wherever I am, I always say where I come from . . . that I am a Filipino," he explains. "I was in Australia for only two days, so I don't know why I was called an Australian.

"My company promoted me in Europe as a Fil-Am singer. I spent four months in France and competed with other international acts. I will always be known as a Filipino."

In New York, where he is based with his parents, Billy enjoys watching movies, renting videotapes and inviting his friends to come over to his house.

"We talk all night, we play video games and we go online," he grants. "I just do what other 18-year-olds do. I go out clubbing when I have nothing else to do. But now that my second album is out, I just want to get out of the studio and start moving my feet."

Billy's computer science studies at New York University will have to take a backseat to his singing and acting.

"I'm still young," he says. "I can try out a lot of things."

And that includes making a name for himself in Hollywood.

Fighting in the larger arena of life itself

VIEWFINDE

Nestor U. Torre

"ALI" is more than a movie about a boxer. In the film starring **Will Smith** as **Muhammad Ali** in his prime, the title character is not just a boxing champion but a fighter in every sense of the word. He fights not just in the ring, but in the larger arena of life itself.

Being black in the '50s and '60s, Ali had a lot to fight against—discrimination, racist hatred, lack of opportunity, etc. Amazingly, he survived this cruel abrogation of his rights and found the strength to be true to himself and his self-worth.

That's why, when he became an outstanding, young boxer, his impact on the American public was a double-whammy, a one-two punch: aside from "stinging like a bee," he could "dance like a butterfly," and was a fighter who could delight crowds with his streetsmart pop-poetry.

Even better, he became a fighter for the rights of others, hence his decision to ally himself with the Black Muslims. But his most controversial decision was to refuse to be drafted by the army, thus causing the ire of the entire American nation to fall on his head, and his boxing career to self-destruct.

The film spans the arc of Ali's first decade as a boxing champion in a way that underscores these major tests in his young life. Other aspects include his love live, the importance he gave to family and friends, his agreeing to be held up as a symbol of black pride and power, and his love for children.

To please fans of fisticuffs, "Ali" has a number of bone-crunching championship fights. But the main theme is still Ali fighting hard to be true to his own person, despite the distracting or persuasive importunings of fame, fans, hangers-on, and people from the worlds of business, politics and religion who wanted to use him for their own utilitarian ends.

At the heart of this dramatization of Ali's life is Smith's on-target portrayal of the champion. People who've gotten used to seeing Smith playing it cool and droll in his past starrers will be surprised to see him subsuming his former persona to that of the complex title in this film.

For starters, Smith built up his body and learned how to box like a champion, so he is impressively credible as the young Ali in the ring.

Less obviously but even more impressively, the actor has intuited and accessed the boxing champion so completely that he is similarly effective in the movie's less dramatic and physical scenes.

Even in repose, he is Ali, a fiercely proud yet troubled man whose prowess and fame have thrust him in the white heat of conflict and controversy. It is a compelling thespic challenge and achievement that Smith will be hard-put to match in the next, few years.

But "Ali" misses being a great film because director **Michael Mann** loads his movie with too many issues and detours. As a result, while we get helpful insights into a number of important points, the film has a hard time focusing its many prisms into a truly integral whole.

Still, the film is viewable for Smith's memorable performance, and for all of the insights that it shares with viewers, unfocused though some of them may be.

* * *

Jose Mari Chan knows outstanding musical talent when he hears it. That's why, when he heard young Korean pianist **Min Kwon** playing while on a cruise to St. Petersburg, Russia last year, he invited her to concertize in the Philippines, so that lovers of fine music here could appreciate her exceptional musical gift.

At 8 p.m. on Friday, March 15 at the Francisco Santiago Hall, Equitable PCI Bank Tower I, Makati City, Min Kwon will perform in "An Evening of Classical Romance," Chan's presentation in cooperation with the MCO Foundation and the Embassy of the Republic of Korea. Call 817-1551.

Min Kwon holds a Doctorate in Music from the Juilliard School, where she has also taught in the piano minor and chamber music departments. She has performed in over 25 countries as an orchestral soloist, recitalist, and chamber musician.

As a performer, she has been hailed for her versatility, sensitive musicianship and dynamic presence. David Frost, Grammy award-winning record producer, pays tribute to her "rare kind of talent that unites the most exceptional technical ability with profound musical sensitivity."

Is Joey Marquez really fuming mad?

DOLLY WOOD

Dolly Anne Carvajal

COULD it be true that the deadpan look and mellow composure of Parañaque City Mayor **Joey Marquez** when he's being interviewed on TV about **Alma Moreno** is all for show?

A TV talk show staff member relayed to me that off-cam, Joey is really fuming mad about the whole issue. If he is, why does he have to put up a brave front and protect his ex-wife? What's really eating him? Is he enraged that Alma beat him at his own game—indiscretion— or is he worried about the possibility of them becoming political rivals?

Speaking of Alma, how true is that, according to a Parañaque city hall insider, that Alma has reached "Imeldific" proportions and Mayor Joey could no longer cover up for her anomalies? Did Alma really misuse funds for the city's Walis Tingting project?

Behind every successful man is a woman. In their case, a successful woman leaves the man behind.

Larusso snub

DID **Larusso** really snub a multitude of her fans who patiently lined up to get her autograph after her show at SM Megamall?

I was disappointed to get a lot of e-mail about the incident because I never thought that my "idol" could be that haughty. As one reader put it, "Larusso ought to be called 'Laos-soon!' It's the fans who put her on top so why did she walk out on them? To think she kept saying, 'I love you all' on stage."

I'm beginning to wonder if the *tres charmant* (very charming) Larusso I interviewed was just a façade *apres tout* (after all).

Bojo given runaround

WHEN will the Lions Club of Capiz, headed by **Bong Albar**, make it up to **Bojo Molina**?

I'm caught in the crossfire because both Bong and Bojo are my good friends. I'm so ashamed because Bojo agreed to host The Mutya ng Halaran pageant with me in Roxas gratis et amore, for friendship's sake. In exchange, Bong promised Bojo free accomodations in Boracay. But much to Bojo's disgust, Bong didn't even bother to make reservations for him at Red Coconut. So Bojo had to wait for hours to get a room and he shouldered the bill.

It's not the money. It's the principle of the thing. The worst part is Bong even gave Bojo the runaround. He refused to answer Bojo's calls and my text messages.

C'mon, Bong! Where did the warmth and hospitality of the Capizeños go?

Since Yahoo is sometimes not accessible, I have a hotmail e-mail address, too. Please take note of it.

For feedback e-mail luvludg@hotmail.com, friends_at_dsquare@yahoo.com, wateringhole2000@yahoo.com

Bb Pilipinas coronation

THE SEARCH for the three luckiest young women comes to an exciting end on March 16, the coronation night of this year's Bb. Pilipinas pageant, at the Araneta Coliseum.

The 23 official candidates will appear in a live three-hour spectacular to be aired on GMA 7.

Miriam Quiambao will return to the scene of her triumph as cohost of the show, along with another Bb. Pilipinas winner, Charlene Gonzales, and heartthrob and MTV jock Derek Ramsey.

The winners will represent the country in world pageants to be held later this year in Puerto Rico, London and Tokyo.

FAVORITE Catherine Anne Ramos Manalo, 22.

'Balikbayan' premiere

THE JAZZ opus of an 80-year-old California-based Filipino musician will premiere tonight at the University Theater on the campus of the University of the Philippines in Diliman, Quezon City.

The UP Jazz Ensemble will interpret for the first time Angel Peña's "Balikbayan," in the concert "Jazz @ Heart," co-produced by the UP College of Music and the Real Estate Brokers Association of the Philippines.

Peña wrote "Balikbayan" in anticipation of his Manila homecoming. He is due to retire in May and has decided to spend the rest of his years in Manila.

He started as a guitarist with big bands and small ensembles until he chose the double bass to be his principal instrument. He figured in the Hawaiian jazz scene from the late 1930s to the 1960s. In 1969, he joined the Honolulu Symphony Orchestra as a full-time bassist and became the musical arranger of the symphony's Starlight Concert series.

For almost two decades beginning in the 1950s, he was the arranger of the UP Upsilon Sigma Phi's annual jazz concerts.

Peña is a self-taught musician, but later earned a licentiate of the Royal Schools of Music diploma from London. He also obtained a certificate of merit in double-bass playing from the John D. Rockefeller III Fund, and a listing in the "International Who's Who in Music."

"Balikbayan," described as a Pinoy jazz fantasy, evokes local rural scenes as Peña skillfully adapts and incorporates the folk theme "Planting Rice" into the piece.

The concert will also feature Peña's brilliant arrangement of the ballad "To You My Hearts Desire," written by Filipino artist Richie Quirino.

Joining the UP Jazz Ensemble as guest performer is American jazz artist, educator and broadcaster Prof. Ron Nethercutt, a trombone player without peer who will interpret "Time for Love."

In "Jazz @ Heart," more than 20 jazz musicians will interpret the artistry of jazz greats Duke Ellington, George Bassman, Bobby Enriquez, Chuck Mangione, Isham Jones and Peña.

Show starts 7 p.m. Tickets are available at the UP University Theater ticket booth.

Lilian Matic-Cruz

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BUSINESS

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Election squabble at PSE worsens

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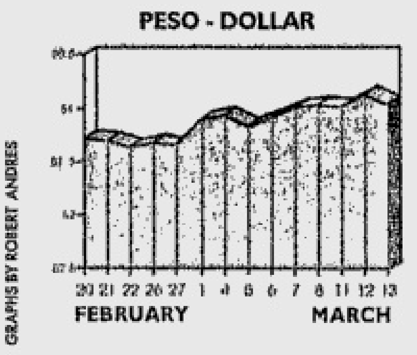

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As of 5 p.m., March 13, 2002

¥129.28 = $1

As of 5 p.m., March 13, 2002

GOLD: $293.60/294.10

per ounce Hong Kong, March 13, 2002

STOCK MARKET

Shares fall 0.5%

SHARE prices fell 0.5 percent yesterday as trading thinned out amid a protest by brokers calling for the resignation of the exchange president.

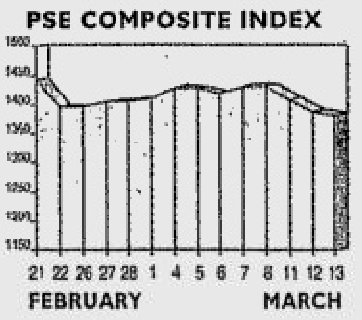
The Philippine Stock Exchange composite index shed 6.26 points to close at 1,382.60.

Turnover fell to 345 million shares worth P435 million compared with 449 million shares worth P623 million traded on Tuesday.

Traders said the market is undergoing a much-needed correction, noting share prices have been hovering at overbought levels since the market index posted an eight-month closing high of 1,469.07 points on Feb. 19.

"The market correction is long overdue," said KGI Securities vice president Fitzgerald Aclan. He noted with satisfaction, though, that selling pressure has been tolerable, which has enabled the market to pace its decline.

Reuters, AFP



(See stock market report on Page B4)

By Doris C. Dumlao
and Dona Pazzibugan

WHILE newly installed Philippine Stock Exchange chair Vivian Yuchengco was taking her oath of office in Malacañang yesterday morning, about a hundred stockbrokers were staging a lightning rally at the Ortigas trading floor to contest her election and seek the ouster of PSE president Ernest Leung.

The protesters, who declared support for Yuchengco's rival Robert Coyiuto, claimed to represent the majority of brokers and resented that the latter lost to Yuchengco despite dominating the brokers' polls last Saturday. They asked the non-brokers who constituted majority of the 15-member board to reconsider their decision to install Yuchengco.

It was business as usual at the Ayala trading floor and Yuchengco managed to get a quorum to proceed with a PSE board meeting. Coyiuto's group, which apologized to the President for not attending the ceremonies in Malacañang, also did not attend the board meeting in the afternoon.

PSE president Ernest Leung, for his part, told reporters after the board meeting that he was "giving due consideration" to calls from the Coyiuto group for him to resign over the alleged violation of a rule in the Securities Regulation Code barring persons who had been affiliated or associated with a stock brokerage house during the last two years from the PSE presidency.

He said he would consider calls for him to quit his post in the interest of the exchange. "You shouldn't have an institution like that

ELECTION/ B4

LEUNG RESIGN
PSE IN CRISIS WITH LEUNG
PSE IN CRISIS WITH LEUNG
DENNIS SABANGAN

EDWIN BACASMAS

TRADERS and brokers stage a protest action at the Tektite trading floor demanding the resignation of PSE president Ernest Leung, as the new PSE board led by its chair Vivian Yuchengco and Leung take their oath in Malacañang.

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BSP 'neutral' on rates cut

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE NEW advisory committee of the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas is expected to recommend to the policy-making Monetary Board a cut in its overnight rates.

Persons familiar with the matter said, however, that the Monetary Board was "neutral" on whether to cut its key rates when it meets today.

"Whether we will cut or not remains to be seen. The advisory committee has a recommendation, and let's see if the recommendation will be followed or not," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura told reporters.

Created this year, the advisory committee meets once a month to make recommendations to the Monetary Board on issues relating to the formulation and implementation of the country's monetary policies.

The central bank last lowered overnight interest rates on Feb. 15 by 25 basis points, the 18th cut since December 2000.

The overnight borrowing rate is now at a six-and-a-half-year low at 7.25 percent and the lending rate at 9.5 percent.

But ample market liquidity pushed the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate to a historic low of 6.714 percent this week at the government's auction on Monday, with Treasury officials forecasting the rate to decline further.

Buenaventura, indicating his support for a rate cut, said with a benign inflation outlook in the next six months, interest rates should remain where they are or be even lower.

The February inflation rate, released by the National Statistics Office last week, came in at a 23-month low of 3.4 percent, lower than the government's projection of 3.9 percent. The annual inflation rate in January was 3.8 percent.

The government is expecting the rate of inflation to fall to within a 4.5- to 5.5-percent range in 2002.

"We have very low inflation and expectations for it to remain so for the next two quarters. We have sufficient interest rate differential and subdued growth in money supply," he said.

He said with this inflation outlook, "there is room" for more interest rate cuts, "but whether we should do it in March or in April we will find out in our future discussions."

What could against a new round of cuts in the central bank's key rates is the US Federal Reserve's decision to keep its short-term rates steady this year.

"Some people say that the Fed already has a bias for tightening the rates, but I think if they do that, it would be during the second half and is therefore not a factor in determining a rate cut now," Buenaventura commented.

On lending cap, BSP chief says bankers erred

THE BANKERS Association of the Philippines has admitted to the central bank that it has erred in defining the coverage of the so-called gentleman's cap on lending rates.

In an interview yesterday, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura said he met with the BAP recently and the group agreed to clarify the application of the five-percentage-point ceiling on lending rates over the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate.

"They agreed that the definition they had been using is wrong, and that the gentleman's cap on bank lending rates apply to all creditworthy borrowers, not just to prime clients," Buenaventura told reporters.

Last month, the BAP said the agreement to cap lending rates to no more than five percentage points over the 91-day T-bill rate applied only to prime borrowers, or those regarded as big, blue chip or multinational companies.

Badly needing cash, UCPB turns to BSP's standby facility

THE UNITED Coconut Planters Bank will borrow money from the central bank to raise its capital and meet requirements set by government regulators, according to a person familiar with the matter.

UCPB's capital adequacy ratio stood at 6.94 percent as of end-2001, way below the central bank's minimum 10-percent requirement and the internationally acceptable rate of 8 percent.

To raise its capital, "UCPB is in the process of securing a standby liquidity facility (from the Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas)," a source from the bank told the INQUIRER.

In a letter, the UCPB board said it had authorized the central bank to evaluate the bank's assets and determine how much would be available as collateral for possible loans.

Monetary officials said, however, that UCPB had yet to formally express its intention to tap the BSP's standby liquidity facility.

A person familiar with the matter said it was unlikely UCPB would run to the BSP to shore up its capital.

The central bank charges high interest rates for whatever facilities it had, he said.

He said banks availing of the BSP rediscounting window, for instance, would have to sell their assets a deep discounts.

The UCPB official said the bank would need at least P2.5 billion to meet the central bank's requirement and some P7.5 billion in fresh capital to keep up with other industry players.

UCPB is hoping to get a significant share of the government's deposits so it can return to the list of the country's top 5 banks.

The bank is currently No. 9 among universal banks, down from No. 5 during its peak. ***Christine A. Gaylican and Clarissa S. Batino***

Diet sentence

BREAKTIME

Conrado R. Banal III

HAPPY days are here again for some crooks by June 28. This is the last day of the tariff on imported cement. By then, the crooks can resume killing the local cement industry.

On Dec. 10, as you know, after several months of searing attacks from importers, the Department of Trade and Industry slapped on imported cement a tariff of P20 a bag.

Too much imports, the DTI found out, were already butchering the locals. As a matter of fact, some of the locals already went bankrupt, and many more were bleeding.

Thus, the trade department tried to stop the carnage by spanking the ruthless importers with the tariff. Unfortunately, the tariff would last for only the next 200 days.

The "provisional" tariff, therefore, ends on June 28. What will happen by then? I don't know, but I'm sure the locals are now just awaiting the death sentence.

* * *

WORD goes around that some groups are still trying to sneak a fast one over at the Tariff Commission. It is deciding on a crucial case for the local cement industry.

In the commission, the locals are fighting for dear life. They are pleading the commission for a more solid defense against the terrorists, *este*, importers.

The market share of imports is still getting bigger and bigger. Before the P20 tariff, imports accounted for 8 percent of the market. Now, they are up to 21 percent.

In other words, even with the P20 tariff, the imports, just given enough time, can still kill the locals. So what more if the tariff goes out by June 28?

Thus, the locals are asking the commission to make the tariff permanent. All right, maybe it's too much to ask. It only serves to save an entire industry from certain death.

* * *

THEY keep on finding new ways to kill the locals. That P20 tariff actually was not a problem. They can always avoid it through a lot of hard work called smuggling.

One case in point, of course, was that of TCC Cement. Recently, the Bureau of Customs unearthed its modus operandi. TCC Cement was in the recycling business.

It was recycling customs documents to avoid paying the tariff. TCC Cement, whose mother company is based in Taiwan, falsified some documents.

The government, thus, canceled its license to import. And that is all? Well, yes, what more do you want? The filing of criminal cases? Don't push your luck!

Let the police catch the man, right after he shot somebody, still holding the gun. So the police took the gun. Are you now saying the police should not just let him go?

* * *

ANYWAY, while it was only a temporary measure, the DTI's mere imposition of the P20 tariff was enough to pep up the locals. Look at these reports.

In Bulacan, before the DTI ruling came out, Continental Cement closed down its plant. It already handed out to its workers their separation pay.

But hope springs eternal, as they say, and when the DTI slapped the tariff, Continental Cement called back its workers. Never mind the separation pay.

Even in as far away as Mindanao, cement companies were threatening to close down. I know that Iligan Cement, as a result of the DTI ruling, is sticking it out.

This cute administration wants to create new jobs? I say that Trade Secretary Mar Roxas II just saved a lot of existing ones. Now if only he gets married finally . . . oops!

* * *

MOREOVER, thanks to the P20 tariff on cement, the government already earned some P80 million. That's officially. I don't know how much cement was actually smuggled.

The money came from the importers. It does not even count the taxes that the locals remit to the government only because they are still breathing.

One figure I saw was the income tax payments of some 97 cement factory workers in La Union. They paid something like P3.2 million in taxes.

They were only the workers. Yet their taxes were even more than triple—as in THREE times—the taxes paid by the four largest importers.

To think, in killing the locals, importers even made a . . . well, killing. They buy cement outside at a dumping price of P60 per bag. They sell it to us at P147, the bastards!

BREAKTIME/ B3

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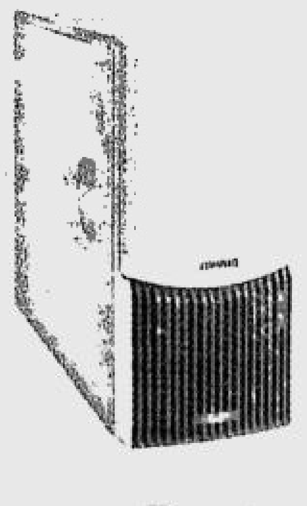

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Bank placements in BSP facilities pegged at ₱10B

THE BANGKO Sentral ng Pilipinas set yesterday a P10-billion ceiling on the placements of banks in its deposit facilities to spur credit growth and encourage banks to lend more aggressively.

"We are trying to discourage banks from placing their excess cash with us and to put this money into more productive use, like lending," Bangko Sentral Governor Rafael Buenaventura said.

Starting yesterday, banks cannot put more than P10 billion in any of the central bank's deposit facilities, including overnight, special deposit accounts and term reverse repurchase windows.

A person familiar with the matter say lenders, to maximize gains on interest rates normally place P5 billion in the central bank's overnight facility for the money to earn 7.25 percent.

A bank will then place some of its funds either in the special deposit window or the term reverse repurchase, where its money will earn more than the lower interest rates being paid out by the central bank on overnight deposits in excess of P5 billion.

Prior to the central bank's decision to set a limit on the amount of money that banks can place in its deposit facilities, overnight deposits in excess of P5 billion earned only 4.25 percent while placements in excess of P10 billion yielded only 1.25 percent.

Despite the central bank's low rates, banks still opted to park their money in the BSP's vaults rather than lend to individual and corporate borrowers.

The placements grew after the 91-day treasury bill yield went down even lower than the central bank's overnight rate.

The central bank last lowered its overnight interest rates on Feb. 15 by 25 basis points, the 18th cut since December 2000.

The overnight borrowing rate is now at a six-and-a-half-year low at 7.25 percent and the lending rate at 9.5 percent.

But ample market liquidity pushed the benchmark 91-day treasury bill rate to a historic low of 6.714 percent this week at the government's auction on Monday, with Treasury officials forecasting the rate to decline further.

PCA urges oil companies to use coconut oil in diesel

THE PHILIPPINE Coconut Authority has asked oil companies to use coconut oil to lower the costs they incur when producing diesel.

In a news briefing, PCA Administrator Danilo Coronacion disclosed that he had discussed the matter with representatives of Petron Corp. and other oil firms operating here.

Using coconut oil to produce diesel would be in line with the Clean Air Act, as bio-diesel would cut sulfur emissions by 2 to 5 percent, Coronacion said.

He said the local coconut industry could supply about 70,000 metric tons of coconut oil that could be used to produce diesel.

The PCA has been trying to promote the use of coconut oil in various applications so that the local oil industry will rely less on markets abroad.

World copra prices plunged to as low as $289 a metric ton last year—lower than the annual average of $300 a metric ton—from $446 a metric ton in 2000.

Coconut oil is widely used locally in the production of soaps and detergents.

A case filed in court, however, has plugged this key market of local coconut oil producers.

The PCA has been trying to work out an amicable settlement of a row over the use of coconut-based chemicals to produce soaps and detergents.

The agency has been pushing for the re-implementation of an executive order that requires soap and detergent manufacturers to use coconut "surfactants" or fatty acids.

Executive Order No: 259, issued in 1987 by then President Corazon Aquino, required the use of coconut-based chemicals to produce 60 percent of a soap or a detergent. The order was issued to give the local coconut industry a steady market for their products. ***Christine A. Gaylican***

Gov't vows to stop illegal importation of used cars

By Gil C. Cabacungan Jr.

MALACAÑANG has assured Japanese and American assemblers that the government was determined to put the brakes on the illegal importation of used cars, including sport utility vehicles.

Department of Trade and Industry Undersecretary Adrian Cristobal Jr., head of a Malacañang task force on used vehicle imports, told automotive assemblers and consumer groups in a meeting that the importation of used cars "is a blatant violation of government import regulations." The government is committed to stop this illegal trade, he added.

He added that the proliferation of illegally imported used cars posed risks to road users and undermined the viability of the local automotive industry.

Aside from the DTI, the task force members are the Department of Finance, Bureau of Customs, Land Transportation Office, and Department of Transportation and Communication.

The DTI declared that the influx of used vehicles in Subic was illegal because the government banned the importation of all right-hand vehicles (the Subic units are merely converted to left-hand drive). But Subic importers have cited a loophole in the government rules, particularly the provision that allows the importation of 10-seater vehicles and special purpose vehicles (such as fire trucks and ambulances).

However, the DTI is certain that all used car imports are banned in the country except when they are brought in by *balikbayans*. SUVs are classified under the car category. While Subic importers have stopped selling cars since last year, the top sellers in the auctions are SUV models such as the Mitsubishi Pajero and Nissan Terrano.

Cristobal has likewise called on buyers of imported used cars to be cautious by demanding from dealers proof that their units have complied with government clearances.

He said the task force had ordered the LTO to hold in abeyance the registration of imported used cars and to investigate how such units were registered in the past without complying with government regulations.

Oil price predictions send 'wrong signals,' says Perez

By Ronnel W. Domingo

ENERGY Secretary Vincent Perez Jr. said yesterday nobody should be dictating when and by how much oil prices should increase.

"That is regulating the market," he said. "We should let market forces play out competition."

Perez told reporters that forecasts on oil price movements were sending out "wrong signals" to the business community, and that it could be seen as fixing prices.

Perez's statements were an indirect criticism of consumer welfare advocate Raul Concepcion, chair of the Consumer and Oil Price Watch.

Concepcion, who owns one of the country's biggest food company, regularly dishes out predictions on where fuel prices should move based generally on changes in international crude prices and peso-dollar exchange rate.

Early this month, Concepcion said there should be no oil price increase this month, as the country's oil firms still had a buffer fund of 31 centavos per liter.

"There should be a hike of 18 centavos per liter in March, but the oil firms owe consumers," Concepcion said.

Concepcion added that the peso also gained 10 centavos against the dollar.

The peso averaged 51.29 to a dollar last month from P51.39 in January.

The Department of Energy last week warned of a new round of increase in oil prices, as it noted that the prices of Dubai crude had hit a six-month high of $22.27 per barrel and $23.22 between March 1 and 11.

Opec energy ministers gathering in Vienna this week to discuss output quotas are expected to stick to current output levels on a recent upswing in oil prices.

Opec sources in Vienna say that the ministers are unlikely to spring any surprises on the market at this week's meeting—one of two scheduled conferences held each year by the 11-member oil-exporting group.

The source said Opec would continue until June with an output cut of 1.5 million barrels per day (bpd) introduced in January.

Opec agreed to the cut under a fragile pact forged in December with rival producers, including Russia, Norway and Mexico, who together agreed to cut exports by almost 500,000 bpd, though only after a risky game of brinkmanship.

Moscow's support played a crucial role in finally sealing the deal between world oil producers to skim 2 million bpd of crude from world markets.

Opec is still lobbying Russia to maintain its export cuts. But with Norway and Mexico promising to stick to their own cuts until the end of June regardless of whether Russia toes the line, analysts say Opec could live with a decision by Moscow to raise its exports.

In another development, oil firms and dealers have agreed to police their own ranks and set up a liquid fuels monitoring task force against adulteration, smuggling and other illegal acts.

The task force will also watch out for the unauthorized sale of branded products, use of inaccurate pump meters, theft, mislabeling and purchase of stolen products.

Those involved in the task force include the New Petroleum Players Association of the Philippines, Petroleum Institute of the Philippines and the Dealers Association of the Philippines.

The NPPAP groups TWA Inc. (Flying V), Jetti Supply Distribution Inc., Oilink International Corp., Subic Bay Development Inc., PTT Philippines Inc., Seaoil Petroleum Corp., TotalFinaElf Philippines Corp., Unioil Petroleum Philippines Corp., Eastern Petroleum Corp. 3N2J Trading and Rambi Development Corp.

The PIP includes Petron Corp., Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp., Caltex Philippines Inc., TotalFinaElf, Liquigaz Corp., SBDI, PTT, Price Gases, Exxon Mobil and TWA.

Breaktime

From page B2

* * *

BUT above all those encouraging stories of ordinary workers who pay more taxes than big-time importers is the confidence that Mar's move has brought into the industry.

The locals actually witnessed how the imports ate into the domestic market. Imports used to own less than one percent of the market. Today, they have 21 percent.

Thus, nobody could blame them if they feared that imports would dominate the market in the future. Nobody invested. Everybody thought of closing down to cut losses.

Now, with the tariff, they can fight for market share. They know it's a tough fight since smuggling is easy in this country, but at least they know they can fight.

That tariff, in effect, erases the advantage of importers up to P20 per bag. It's the amount they cannot undercut the locals with, assuming there is no smuggling.

* * *

THE CHAIR of the commission is Edgardo Abon, who, I don't hesitate to say, in all honesty and candor, is a man who looks good in white barong even without going through a diet.

What decision awaits the locals from the commission? Is it a diet or a death sentence? How on earth can the commission ever rule against the locals?

There's really no reason why Abon and his colleagues can't see things the way the DTI did. If they will overturn the DTI, I'm sure something fishy just happened.

In the first place, based on the staff report of the commission, which was published as early as April last year, the DTI and the commission have the same data.

It's rare, I know, for public officials to agree. The DTI and the commission can try, but it's hard for them to use the same data and then arrive at different conclusions.

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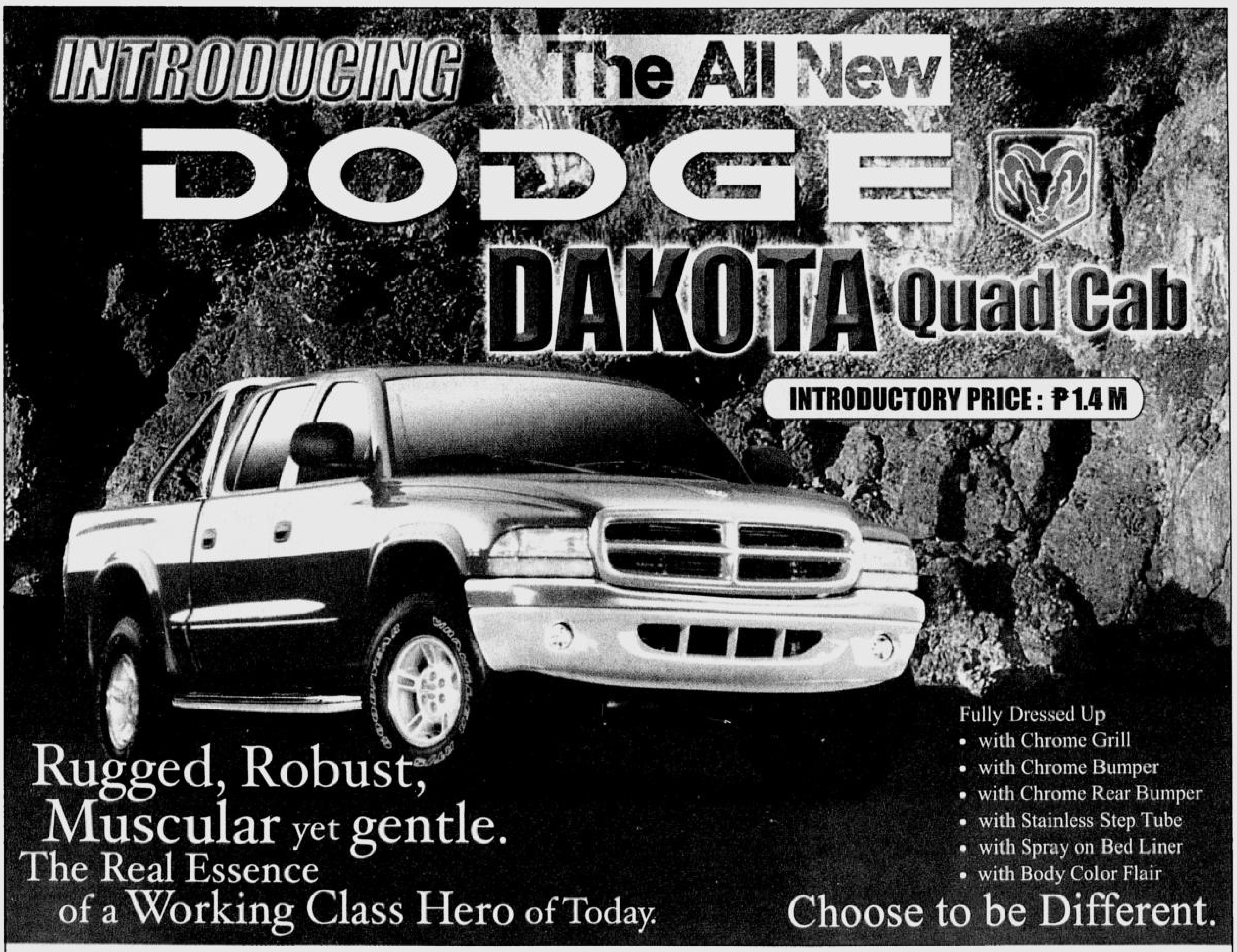
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$1-B Asian cable network launched

By Ronnel W. Domingo

A CONSORTIUM of 44 telecommunications companies around the world launched yesterday the $1-billion Asia-Pacific Cable Network 2, with Philippine Long Distance Telephone Co. contributing $49.19 million.

Enrique Yu, PLDT assistance vice president, said in a briefing yesterday that PLDT's investment was the fourth largest contribution from consortium members.

Yu said the three biggest equities came from Cable & Wireless of the United Kingdom, NTT of Japan and MCI of the United States. He did not give the amount of the contributions.

"APCN2 has 19,000 kilometers of underwater fiber optic cable that has 10 terminals in eight countries," he said.

The terminals are in Singapore, Malaysia, Hong Kong, China, Korea, Japan, Taiwan and the Philippines.

"APCN2 can connect to many other cable networks around the globe including ones in the United States, Europe and Australia," Yu added.

He said APCN2 was the first fiber optic network in the Asia Pacific that could automatically restore connections in case of cable damage.

PLDT data show that the network's high-bandwith capacity allows a pair of fibers to transmit up to 64 channels.

This means that a pair of fibers can send over a trillion pages of documents in one second; carry 30 million phone conversations at a time; allow patients to consult doctors halfway around the globe, and track thousands of shipments in real-time.

"PLDT's investment corresponds to a capacity that is enough to cover our needs in the next three to five years," Yu noted.

Through APCN2, PLDT expects to establish its presence in other countries.

"We plan to sell as much as a quarter of our APCN2 capacity to firms abroad," Yu said.

APCN2 was activated last Dec. 21, almost two years after the consortium signed a construction and maintenance agreement in April 2000.

Yu said most subscribers of APCN2 were multinational firms and Internet service providers, which pay between $18,000 and $20,000 a month.

"This would soon go down to between $10,000 and $15,000," Yu added.

Election squabble at PSE worsens

From page B1

dragged down by issues like this," Leung told reporters.

"We are all dispensable and I, for one, am completely dispensable," he said.

Leung also said the non-brokers met among themselves yesterday and would soon come up with a consolidated position to address calls for them to reconsider the results of the election. He said it was in the best interest of the exchange to resolve the current row as soon as possible.

On the other hand, Yuchengco said she would beg Leung not to resign. "He (Leung) has the full support of the majority of the membership, except for some people in Tektite."

"I think it is damaging to the PSE as an institution and I'm appealing to Mr. Coyiuto to come back to the board, as rallying is not the right solution," Yuchengco said, noting that it was not her fault that most of the non-brokers voted her as chair.

She denied that there was conspiracy with the non-brokers to elect her as chair.

Newly elected PSE corporate secretary Francisco Villaroman said: "The quarrel is not between Coyiuto and Yuchengco. The quarrel is with the PSE bylaws and the Securities Regulation Code."

The SRC mandates that majority of the 15-member board must be controlled by non-brokers but is quiet on how the selection for the private sector representatives should be done.

In Malacañang, President Macapagal-Arroyo swore in Yuchengco and five other PSE officials who were able to join her in the hastily arranged oath-taking ceremonies: president Ernest Leung, and directors Tomas Apacible, Peter Favila, Monico Jacob and Alicia Rita Arroyo.

Ms Macapagal talked to Yuchengco privately for several minutes. Interviewed later, Yuchengco said the President was concerned that the dispute about the PSE leadership would adversely affect stock trading.

Yuchengco said that while it was "business as usual" in the stock market, the controversy might eventually pull down trading.

"But I don't think the market is down because of this. I think it has something to do with all the other factors," she said. "But it will erode the market if they feel that this thing is affecting us."

She said she explained to the President why the other PSE directors could not make it.

She also denied that their oath-taking was rushed to prevent Coyuito's group from appealing their election.

"My final advice to Mr. Coyuito is: Come on, Robert, let's get together. Let's work together for the stock exchange. The elections are over. It should be finished," she said.

Yuchengco said she did not ask the President to intervene in the controversy.

Dirty money law rules OKd

From page B12

would have to first evaluate the IRR before the process of removing the Philippines from the list could start. The Philippines will be required to submit a comprehensive implementation plan.

If the plan is found satisfactory, the regional unit of the task force would recommend to the FATF to send an evaluation team to assess whether the law was being implemented efficiently. Only after this will the team recommend to FATF the removal or retention of the country in the watchlist.

"The process is lengthy and cumbersome but that is how the FATF does it and everybody goes through the same process. It takes time," said Pangilinan.

Pangilinan pointed out that the signing, though viewed to be procedural by some groups, was a big deal for the FATF's regional unit. "Signing the IRR is important for the Asia-Pacific Group," said the solon.

PHILIPPINE STOCK EXCHANGE

(As of Wednesday, March 13, 2002)

STOCKS	OPEN	HIGH	LOW	CLOSE	VOLUME
BANKS & FINANCIAL SERVICES					
BANKS					
Asiatrust Dev. Bank Inc.	5.2	5.2	5.2	5.2	8,000
Bank of the Phil. Islands	67	67	66.5	66.5	138,800
China Banking Corp.	590	590	590	590	500
Citystate Savings Bank	14.25	14.25	14.25	14.25	2,000
Equitable PCI Bank Inc.	33.5	34	33	34	606,300
First E-Bank Corp.	2.5	2.5	2.48	2.5	70,000
Metropolitan Bank & Trust	44	44	43.5	44	73,300
Union Bank of The Phil.	20.25	20.5	20.25	20.5	21,500
FINANCIAL SERVICE					
Filipino Fund Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	120,000
Manulife Financial Corp.	1370	1370	1370	1370	910
Sun Life Financial Serv.	1030	1045	1025	1040	36,100
COMMERCIAL & INDUSTRIAL					
COMMUNICATION					
ABS-CBN Broadcasting Corp.	33	33	33	33	20,600
Digital Telecom Phils Inc.	0.7	0.72	0.7	0.72	5,630,000
Globe Telecom Inc. G	795	795	795	795	63,640
Island Info and Tech Inc.	0.0625	0.0625	0.06	0.0625	12,800,000
Piltel	0.43	0.46	0.43	0.46	5,090,000
Phil. Long Dis Tel Co.	505	510	500	505	80,830
Ivantage Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.51	0.51	10,000
Philweb.Com Inc.	0.02	0.02	0.019	0.02	25,000,000
POWER & ENERGY					
Manila Electric Co. A	31	31	30.5	30.5	477,500
Manila Electric Co. B	44.5	45.5	44.5	45.5	568,100
Petron Corp.	1.8	1.82	1.78	1.8	3,671,000
Trans-Asia Oil and Energy	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	120,000
TRANSPORTATION SERVICES					
Asian Terminals Inc.	1.14	1.14	1.14	1.14	45,000
Int'l Container Term'l Sv	2.6	2.6	2.48	2.48	4,251,000
Keppel Phils. Marine Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	220,000
Negros Navigation Co.Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.23	0.23	500,000
CONSTRUCTION & OTHER RELATED PRODUCTS					
Engineering Equip. Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.29	0.29	210,000
Republic Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.64	0.64	50,000
Union Cement Corp.	0.64	0.64	0.63	0.63	540,000
FOOD, BEVERAGES & TOBACCO					
Jollibee Foods Corp.	12.25	12.5	12.25	12.25	140,200
La Tondena Distillers Inc.	23	23.25	23	23	37,300
RFM Corp.	1.54	1.56	1.52	1.52	1,421,000
Swift Food Inc.	2.1	2.1	2.1	2.1	2,000
San Miguel Corp. A	48	48	47.5	48	394,500
San Miguel Corp. B	61.5	63.5	61.5	63	39,700
HOLDING FIRMS					
Atok-Big Wedge Co. Inc.	8	10	8	10	7,000
Atok-Big Wedge. Inc. B	10	10	10	10	1,000
Ayala Corp.	6.5	6.5	6.5	6.5	2,378,000
Aboitiz Equity Ventures	1.98	2	1.98	2	36,000
Ajo.Net Holdings Inc.	0.72	0.76	0.72	0.76	460,000
A. Soriano Corp.	0.52	0.52	0.52	0.52	60,000
Alcorn Gold Res. Corp.	0.007	0.0075	0.007	0.0075	8,000,000
Anglo Phil Holdings Corp.	0.33	0.33	0.33	0.33	50,000
ATN Holdings Inc.	3.36	3.4	3.2	3.4	1,054,000
Benpres Holdings Corp.	0.76	0.78	0.76	0.77	43,040,000
Basic Consolidated Inc.	0.14	0.14	0.14	0.14	20,000
Crown Equities Inc.	0.31	0.31	0.31	0.31	1,110,000
Southeast Asian Cement	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
DMCI Holdings Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	120,000
Filinvest Dev. Corp.	1.04	1.04	1.04	1.04	40,000
First Phil Hldgs Corp.	31	31	30.5	30.5	350,500
Global Equities Inc.	0.15	0.15	0.15	0.15	990,000
House Of Investments Inc.	0.35	0.35	0.35	0.35	80,000
Ionics Inc.	7.9	7.9	7.9	7.9	16,000
J.G. Summit Holdings Inc.	1.84	1.84	1.84	1.84	100,000
Macroasia Corp.	1.2	0 1.2	1.2	1.2	5.00
Megaworld Corp.	0.84	0.86	0.84	0.86	2,510,000
Multitech Inv. Corp.	0.6	0.6	0.55	0.55	400,000
Metro Pacific Corp.	0.3	0.31	0.3	0.31	230,000
Music Corp.	0.31	0.32	0.3	0.31	4,950,000
Prime Orion Phils. Inc.	0.18	0.18	0.18	0.18	100,000
Roxas Holdings Inc.	0.92	0.92	0.92	0.92	100,000
Solid Group Inc.	0.36	0.36	0.36	0.36	50,000
Tanduay Holdings Inc.	4.2	4.2	4.2	4.2	5,000
Uniwide Holdings Inc.	0.13	0.15	0.125	0.15	230,000
Waterfront Phils. Inc.	0.29	0.3	0.29	0.3	210,000
MANUFACTURING, DISTRIBUTION & TRADING					
Corro-Coat Inc.	1.44	1.44	1.44	1.44	27,000
Pryce Corp.	0.105	0.105	0.105	0.105	300,000
SPI Technologies Inc.	14	14	14	14	103,900
Steniel Manufacturing	0.3	0.39	0.3	0.39	70,000
HOTEL, RECREATION & OTHER SERVICE					
Belle Corp.	0.51	0.51	0.49	0.51	700,000
Fairmont Holdings Inc.	0.58	0.58	0.58	0.58	50,000
Manila Jockey Club	10.5	10.5	10.5	10.5	10,000
Mondragon Intl Phils Inc.	0.42	0.48	0.41	0.48	1,240,000
BONDS, PREFERRED & WARRANTS					
ABS-CBN Hldgs. Corp (Pdr)	33	34	33	34	797,500
DMCI Holdings Inc.- Pref.	785	800	785	800	20,300
Globe Telecom Hldg (Pdr)	780	780	780	780	1,100
Omico Corp. Warrant	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	0.0014	51,000,000
RFM Corp. - Pref.	4.4	4.4	4.4	4.4	1,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series P	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	3,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series Q	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	2,000
PLDT (10% Pref) Series V	10.25	10.25	10.25	10.25	4,200
Philweb.Com Inc. -Warrants	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	0.0055	11,000,000
OTHERS					
Far Eastern University	460	460	460	460	100
PROPERTY					
Ayala Land Inc.	6.7	6.7	6.6	6.6	3,209,000
Araneta Properties Inc.	0.23	0.23	0.21	0.21	400,000
Cityland Development Corp	2.9	2.9	2.9	2.9	5,000
C & P Homes Inc.	0.28	0.28	0.28	0.28	310,000
Cyber Bay Corp.	0.47	0.47	0.46	0.46	3,390,000
Empire East Land Inc.	0.3	0.3	0.3	0.3	3,740,000
Edsa Prop. Holdings Inc.	1.12	1.12	1.12	1.12	1,000
Filinvest Land Inc.	2.16	2.16	2.12	2.12	4,430,000
Fil-Estate Land Inc.	0.39	0.39	0.37	0.38	2,880,000
Robinsons Land Corp.	1.74	1.78	1.72	1.78	24,000
SM Prime Holdings Inc.	6.4	6.4	6.3	6.3	6,147,000
Universal Rightfield Prop	0.08	0.08	0.08	0.08	700,000
MINING					
Abra Mining & Industrial	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	10,000,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines A	0.039	0.04	0.039	0.04	11,700,000
Itogon-Suyoc Mines B	0.04	0.04	0.04	0.04	100,000
Lepanto Cons Mng. Co. A	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	160,000
Lepanto Cons. Mng. Co B	0.21	0.21	0.21	0.21	260,000
Manila Mining Corp. A	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	0.0036	39,000,000
Omico Corp.	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	0.0046	2,000,000
Philex Mining Corp. A	0.24	0.24	0.23	0.23	1,420,000
Philex Mining Corp. B	0.27	0.27	0.27	0.27	230,000
OIL					
Imperial Res.	0.019	0.019	0.019	0.019	2,700,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. A	0.005	0.005	0.005	0.005	39,000,000
Oriental Pet. & Min. B	0.0055	0.0055	0.005	0.005	7,000,000
Pacifica	0.014	0.015	0.014	0.015	11,200,000
Sinophil Corp.	0.07	0.07	0.07	0.07	200,000
Vulcan Ind'l	0.2	0.2	0.2	0.2	210,000

CURRENCIES

March 13, 2002

Country	Unit	Euro Equivalent	Foreign currency in US$	Foreign currency in Peso
United States	Dollar	1.141162	1.000000	50.9340
Japan	Yen	0.008854	0.007759	0.3952
United Kingdom	Pound	1.616113	1.416200	72.1327
Hong Kong	Dollar	0.146314	0.128215	6.5305
Switzerland	Franc	0.680640	0.596445	30.3793
Canada	Dollar	0.719522	0.630517	32.1148
Singapore	Dollar	0.627012	0.549451	27.9857
Australia	Dollar	0.594045	0.520562	26.5143
Bahrain	Dinar	3.027115	2.652661	135.1106
Saudi Arabia	Rial	0.304302	0.266660	13.5821
Brunei	Dollar	0.625672	0.548276	27.9259
Indonesia	Rupiah	0.000114	0.000100	0.0051
Thailand	Baht	0.026410	0.023143	1.1788
UAE	Dirham	0.310697	0.272264	13.8675
Korea	Won	0.000872	0.000764	0.0389
Euro	Euro	1.000000	0.876300	44.6335
Brazil	Real	0.488721	0.428266	21.8133
Denmark	Kroner	0.134571	0.117925	6.0064
India	Rupee	0.023452	0.020551	1.0467
Malaysia	Ringgit	0.300306	0.263158	13.4037
Mexico	New Peso	0.125443	0.109926	5.5990
New Zealand	Dollar	0.490022	0.429406	21.8714
Norway	Kroner	0.129437	0.113426	5.7772
Pakistan	Rupee	0.019114	0.01675	0.8531
South Africa	Rand	0.099643	0.087317	4.4474
Sweden	Kroner	0.109967	0.096364	4.9082
Syria	Pound	0.026054	0.022831	1.1629
Taiwan	NT Dollar	0.032744	0.028694	1.4615
Venezuela	Bolivar	0.001268	0.001111	0.0566

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Opec sitting pretty after oil price revival

LONDON—Opec energy ministers gathering in Vienna this week to discuss output quotas are likely to be in jubilant mood, sitting pretty on a recent upswing in oil prices to six-month highs.

With signs of recovery in the US economy and worries about US-led military action against Iraq driving the crude market higher, analysts expect the Organization of Petroleum Exporting Countries (Opec) to stick to current output levels at its meeting on Friday.

"Generally we're seeing signs of strong economic recovery and it's certainly helping the general environment," said Lawrence Eagles, an oil expert at the GNI brokerage.

"Obviously as the world economy improves, so demand growth is going to improve and that also gives Opec a certain degree of power," he told AFP.

The relaxed mood among ministers at this week's conference will be in marked contrast to the fraught atmosphere that pervaded two extraordinary Opec meetings in the second half of last year.

Then Opec was facing a possible price collapse triggered by a slump in demand caused by a global economic slowdown aggravated by the Sept. 11 terrorist strikes.

Since then, however, the oil price has bounced back to levels seen shortly before the attacks, touching $24 a barrel here this week. *AFP*

Expert says US economy held back by 'negative forces'

WASHINGTON—The fundamentals of the US economy remain strong, but a number of "negative forces" will keep it below potential, economics Nobel laureate Joseph Stiglitz said Tuesday.

Stiglitz, who was awarded the Nobel prize for economics last year and is a professor of economics at Columbia University, was speaking in testimony before the Senate banking committee on the US economic outlook.

He noted that the national savings rate remains dismally low and that pent up demand is unlikely to spur growth during the current recovery.

"Given that consumption has not fallen in the way that it does in a typical downturn, it is unlikely that an increase in consumption will provide a strong impetus for growth in the short run," Stiglitz said.

"The heavy indebtedness of the consumer may impose an important dampener on spending, one which will become especially important if interest rates rise," he said.

Stiglitz also said there is a continuing concern about the problems of accurate and clear valuations of earnings in the corporate sector.

"Enron and Global Crossing confirmed the suspicions of the skeptics, and today, many, if not most, investors feel high levels of uncertainty about the numbers that many corporations are reporting," he said.

He added that this could dampen stock market prices in the near future.

Stiglitz added that the $10-trillion US economy "has a potential for growth of between 3 and 4 percent." *AFP*

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3 Tang winners P100,000 richer

THREE lucky loyal Tang consumers are now P100,000 richer, thanks to the ongoing Tang KwarTANG-Kwarta promo, which intends to give away more than P6 million in cash prizes until March 30.

Araceli Alladin, a cashier from Davao City, received her birthday gift a day earlier as she purchased a winning Tang KwarTANG-Kwarta pack, which made her the instant winner of P100,000. She bought her winning pack from Felcris Supermarket in Davao City.

"I am very thankful to Tang and I hope that Tang will come out with more promos in the future," the Davaoeña gleefully said.

The two other P100,000 winners—Juliana Inocencio of Pasig City and Alice dela Cruz of San Jose del Monte, Bulacan—won during the preliminary raffle draw held Feb. 2 in "Eat Bulaga".

Inocencio, a 51-year-old housewife, sent 10 promo packs for the raffle. She sent a lot of entries since she uses Tang to make ice candies. Luck was truly on her side because before she won the P100,000, she had already been drawn as one of the winners of P10,000. Inocencio was given the bigger cash prize.

"I'm going to use the money to pay for the debts my family incurred when my eldest son got married. I'll also use some of the money to have our family jeep repaired," the jubilant housewife said.

According to Inocencio, she is going to buy loads of Tang KwarTANG-Kwarta packs so she can win more cash prizes.

Hurry and rush off to the nearest supermarket and grab a Tang Orange KwarTANG-Kwarta pack because you can be the next millionaire. Promo period is extended up to March 30.

ADBOARD OFFICERS INDUCTED

The new officers and board of directors of the Advertising Board of the Philippines (AdBoard) were recently sworn into office by Executive Secretary Alberto G. Romulo (9th from left). Shown are (from left) Ruperto Nicdao, Jr (KBP), Lucien Dy-Tiocco (UPMG), Agapito Alcantara (Pana), Angelito Pangilinan (4As), Alvin Manacsa (Asap), PR and information officer, Carminia Rodriguez (Pana), treasurer, Cerge Remonde (KBP), vice chair, Susan Dimacali (4As), chair, Jose Sy (Caap), corporate secretary, Paciencia Pineda (UPMG), Susie Achacoso-Cruz (Pana), Carole Sarthou (Mores), Michael Mallari (OAAP), Ricky Velez (IBA), Afif Khodr (Asap), Jacinto Puno (4As), and March Ventosa (4As). Another board director is Raul Alvarez (Pana).

TUP-Taguig alumni homecoming

THE TUP-MTI Alumni Association will be holding its grand alumni homecoming on March 16, Saturday, 4 p.m. at the TUP-Taguig Quadrangle. Attire is semi-formal. The celebration commemorates the 25th founding anniversary of Manila Technician Institute, which is now TUP-Taguig. The main objective of the grand alumni homecoming is "to bond us all together and leave a legacy to our alma mater."

The alumni association's main project is the construction of the Alumni Building. This is where the alumni would hold seminars and symposia to share new acquired knowledge and information. Call classmates, batchmates, and officemates. Call Cesar at 823-1774, 0919-2093658 or e-mail tupmtialumni@edsamail.com.ph.

Book industry assembly set

A GENERAL assembly of the country's book publishers, authors, printers, paper manufacturers, and other professionals and businesses in related industries has been scheduled by the Philippine Educational Publishers Association (Pepa) on March 16. The main topic to be discussed in the whole-day affair, which will be held at the Sunrise Holiday Mansion in Tagaytay City, is "Filipino Educational Publishers and the Changing Education Policy."

Senators Francis N. Pangilinan and Ralph G. Recto, National Book Development Board chair Dr. Dennis Gonzales, DepEd Undersecretary Ernesto S. Pangan, and DepEd directors Dr. Carolina Guerrero and Merlita Nolido have been invited as resource speakers. Reservations may be made with the Pepa secretariat (Lee Ulangca at 740-2698/711-5702) or with Beth Fabillaran (742-1883) and Cristy Ramirez (962-1908/09).

NORTHWESTERN ALUMNI CLUB NEW MEMBERS

Marc C. Beatrix, MBA '70 (fifth from left), finance director-Asia of Lyonnaise des Eaux which is assisting Maynilad Water in upgrading the water system of Metro Manila, and Takeshi Ogoshi, MBA '95 (third from left), general manager of HI-Eisai Pharma, were inducted into membership by the Northwestern University Alumni Club during a recent meeting at the Elks' Club in Makati. Also shown were (from left) assistant secretary Robbie Antonio; Bibsy Carballo; Bunny Fabella; Evelyn Singson; club president Dennis Valdes; Arnie Leoncio, VP Steve Gan; Ralph Qua; and secretary general Czar Yatco.

OBITUARIES

"Come to Me, all you who are weary and burdened,
and I will give you rest."
Matthew 11:28

Rolando "Ding" Acosta Briones

Former Congressman-Lone District of Pasay City
December 14, 1938 - March 13, 2002

His loving wife **Carmelita**; children **Dollan** and **Jocelyn**, **Deanna** and **Dino David**, **Diana** and **Jeric Balangtakbo**, and **Dennis**; his grandchildren **Danielle**, **Paulo**, **David**, **DJ**, **Daphne** and **Donah**; his brothers **Andres** and **Romulo Jr.**; his sisters **Carmelita**, **Janet** and **Lilian**; his brothers-in-law, sisters-in-law, nephews, nieces and other relatives and friends request everyone to rejoice with us at his return to our Creator.

His remains lie in state at his residence at No. 65 Don Carlos Revilla Street, Pasay City.

On Sunday, March 17, 2002, Mass will be celebrated at 9:00 a.m. after which interment will follow at the Pasay City Cemetery.

I am the way, the truth and the life.
No one comes to the Father except through me.
John 14:6

Basilia Quesada Joseph

May 2, 1918 - March 11, 2002

Died in the Grace of the Lord at
San Juan de Dios Hospital

Her loving husband **Alfredo Suralta Quesada** (†); brother **Gonzalo Cacanindin Quesada**; sister **Flora Quesada Sinsuat**; children **Alegria & Dr. Abelardo C. Nery**, **Benjamin & Abysimia Ramos Joseph**, **Luz & Dr. Ligtas E. Dayuno** (†), **Carlos & Monaliza Cagaanan Joseph**, **Remedios** (**Betty**) **& Dr. Anthony M. Avellanosa**; grandchildren and great grandchildren.

Her remains lie in state at St. Andrew Chapel, Holy Trinity Memorial Chapel, Sucat, Parañaque.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 16, 2002 after the 2:00 p.m. Mass at the Manila Memorial Park, Sucat, Parañaque.

OBITUARY REQUIREMENTS

❶ Copy of Death Certificate ❷ Any identification document (I.D.)

Our Dearly Beloved

PRAXEDES "EDITH" SANTOS GARCIA

Passed away in the Grace of our Lord on March 12, 2002
at the age of 66 to join her husband Mike.

Her bereaved children **Michael & Ermilyn** and **Marcus**; grandchildren **Matthew** and **Mikee**; brothers and sisters and in-laws **Ando & Marita Santos**, **Cely & Nilo Nicdao**, **John & Esting Santos**, **Daisy & Tony Angeles**, **Mely & Jumi Roque** and **Lou & Arlene Buan** request pious readers to pray for the eternal repose of her soul.

Her remains lie in state at the Santos residence in San Francisco, Mabalacat, Pampanga.

Interment will be on Saturday, March 16, 2002 at the Tierra Santa Memorial Park, after the 3:00 PM Mass at the Our Lady of Grace Parish Church in Mabalacat, Pampanga.

For the needs of your departed Loved Ones, the following establishments can help you.

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1511 Gen. Luna St., Paco, Manila. Tels. 522-8846, 522-9438, 400-5394

US dismisses World Bank call for doubling aid

WASHINGTON—The United States dismissed Tuesday a World Bank call for rich nations to double aid to the world's poorest, saying it was impossible to pinpoint exact financial needs.

"How much ammunition is enough to win the war on poverty? I think the honest answer is no one knows," said Alan Larson, undersecretary of State for Economic Business and Agricultural Affairs.

"I do not know. I do not think the World Bank knows," he said, outlining the US agenda for a March 18-22 United Nations conference on financing development in Monterrey, Mexico.

The World Bank is calling for aid to be stepped up by $40 to $60 billion a year. It says the extra money is critical to meeting the UN Millennium Declaration goals, agreed in 2000, which include halving the proportion of people in poverty by 2015.

Larson said he supported the World Bank's goal of drawing more attention and commitment to development.

"But if you ask me as an economist what is the right answer to the question, how much assistance is enough, my answer is we do not know," he added.

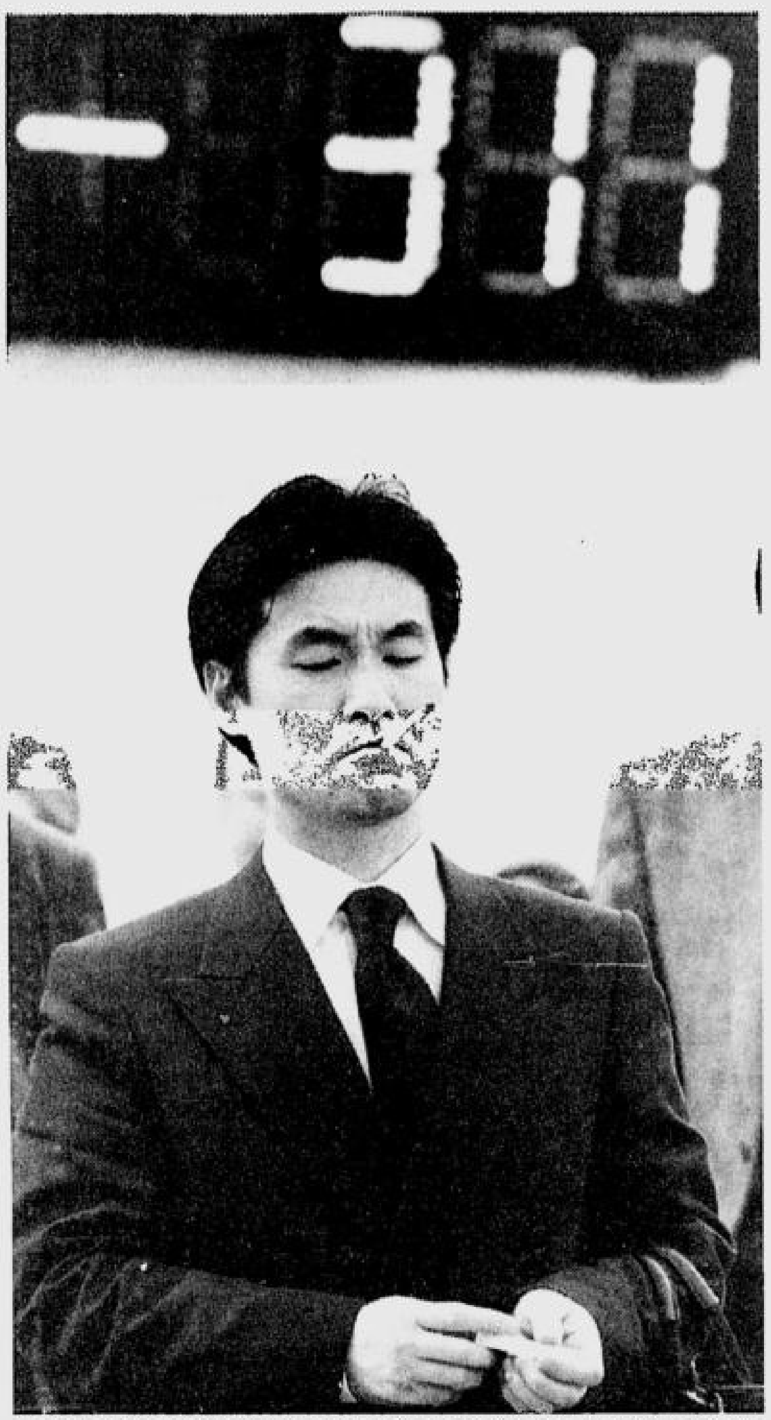
Besides aid, he said, it was critical to harness foreign investment, export earnings, domestic savings within developing countries and homeward-bound remittances from overseas workers.

"All of these need to be brought together," he said.

The United States would increase its aid to the World Bank's soft lending arm, the International Development Association (IDA) if certain performance standards were met, the senior US official said.

"We are saying that we are prepared to increase aid by up to 18 percent over three years our commitment to IDA if we can establish and achieve performance benchmarks," he said.

The US government is prepared to negotiate which performance measures should be used, Larson said. ***AFP***



A JAPANESE businessman walk past an electronic stock board that flashes a big loss in downtown Tokyo Tuesday. The 225-issue Nikkei Stock Average shed 311.97 points to end the day at 11,607.33. AP

China lists banned areas for investment

BEIJING—China has announced a list of areas barred to foreign investment as it keeps a tight grip on some sectors despite vast market opening after entering the World Trade Organization in December.

China will ban foreign investment in strategic parts of the economy, including construction and operation of power grids and aviation transport control companies, according to a foreign investment "catalog" seen on Wednesday.

It would bar overseas investment in future firms out of worries for financial stability, according to the catalog released by the China News Service.

The broadcasting and television sectors were also closed to foreign investment, it said. The government exercises tight control over the media, all of it state controlled, barring content it considers politically sensitive or pornographic.

In a sector already roiled by controversy, the catalog also bans foreign investment in the production and development of genetically modified (GM) seeds.

That ban could hurt companies like US-based Monsanto, which is developing GM cotton in China.

Some foreign industry officials say Beijing's ban on investment in GM seeds is aimed at protecting domestic industry since China grows GM crops extensively.

Chinese officials say the rules governing GM foods are aimed at protecting public health.

The release of the list follows last month's Cabinet approval of new rules on foreign investment aimed at bringing them in line with China's WTO commitments.

The government would encourage foreign investment in 262 areas, up from 186 previously, the Xinhua news agency said. The number of sectors in which China barred foreign investment would fall to 75 from 112, it said. ***Reuters***

TOYOTA SETS TREND

Japan's big manufacturers rein in wage hikes

TOKYO—Japanese workers are likely to receive record-low pay increases this year after trend setting Toyota Motor Corp. broke a decades-long custom by proposing no rises in salary scales, reports said Wednesday.

Toyota's union has accepted a management proposal that pay should not be raised apart from a seniority-based increase, even though the nation's top carmaker expects a record profit for the year to March, Jiji Press and Kyodo News agencies said.

Annual pay rises for Japanese workers comprise an increase based on the length of service and a rise in salary scales.

Toyota's move is likely to dim the prospects of increases for workers belonging to the local council of the International Metalworkers Federation, an umbrella group for steel, automobile, electrical and shipbuilding unions.

Steel and electrical machinery workers are not demanding salary-scale rises in return for job security, while the shipbuilding union also is likely to see no increase in the wage scale.

It is the first time since the council was established in 1964 that most companies in all four industries would not raise salary scales.

Many other leading manufacturers are expected to follow suit and freeze salary scales.

The average wage rise for Japanese workers is now expected to fall to a new record low this year amid falling prices. The previous lowest average wage increase was 2 percent last year, according to the labor ministry.

Japan's decade-long economic slump has forced labor unions to focus more on job security than pay rises, a senior official of the workers' council said on condition of anonymity.

"Markets rate companies if they are reporting profits every year, demanding strict rationalization . . . Cutting labor costs is the quickest way (for the management) to demonstrate an achievement."

A model Toyota employee with 18 years service would receive an average increase of 6,500 yen ($50) or 1.8 percent of his or her monthly salary of 355,490 yen this year.

But Toyota's robust earnings will be reflected in bonuses, customarily paid twice a year. Each worker is expected to receive on average a record 2.2 million yen in bonuses in the coming year. ***AFP***

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318i M Sport	2,300,000	805,000	**36,000**
325i Exec	2,735,000	957,250	**42,500**

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Fax 810-73-25

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Tel. No. 724-09-64 • 727-03-86 • 727-03-81 to 85 • 727-03-88 to 89
Fax 727-03-90

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222 E. Rodriguez Sr. Ave. Quezon City
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Fax 727-63-37

Andersen board unveils reforms

NEW YORK—Arthur Andersen is rushing to show that it's serious about reforming itself in the wake of the Enron Corp. scandal. But for many of its clients, it's too little, too late.

Even as Andersen's oversight committee announced its first series of reforms for the troubled accounting firm, another major client dumped Andersen as its auditor.

FedEx Corp. followed the lead of other blue chip companies, including Delta Air Lines, Freddie Mac, Merck & Co. and SunTrust Banks.

Paul Volcker, the former Federal Reserve chair who is overseeing the board charged with making over Andersen, acknowledged that the reforms might not come in time to save the firm.

"What we have here is a run on the bank because everyone else is running," Volcker told reporters. "If everybody leaves, there's no firm left. Obviously it's not good for the country for 2,500 businesses looking around for a new auditing firm overnight."

The three-member board had intended to finalize its first set of reforms later this month, but accelerated its schedule as reports emerged that Andersen could face a federal indictment and was already in talks about a possible business combination with another Big Five accounting firm.

Talks with the Justice Department on whether Andersen can avoid criminal charges for its role in Enron's collapse have been off and on since last week. A decision could come as early as Thursday when a top US prosecutor returns from overseas.

Volcker's board ordered Andersen to split its auditing and consulting services to eliminate any conflict of interest. It also imposed several internal measures to ensure more discipline among Andersen's auditors.

Negotiations began quietly last week between New York-based Deloitte Touche Tohmatsu and Chicago-based Arthur Andersen LLP, said a source familiar with the talks, speaking on condition of anonymity. Andersen also is in discussions with Ernst & Young, said a source familiar with those talks, also speaking on condition of anonymity. ***AP***

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INVITATION FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

AD NO. PD 2002-07

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E-Bidding Date: April 3, 2002 - 9:00 AM

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Interested parties are invited to apply for eligibility and to submit sealed bids on the above to be opened publicly at the Sampaguita Room, Ground Floor Bldg. 2 NPC-OBC, Quezon Avenue cor. Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City.

Eligibility forms and bidding documents are available on **March 12, 2002** upon payment of P50.00 which is non-refundable.

Issuance of eligibility forms and bidding documents morning only, 8:30 to 11:30 a.m. For inquiries please call 921-2574.

The Corporation reserves the right to reject any or all bids without offering any reason, waive any defect therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Corporation.

MATERIALS MANAGEMENT DEPARTMENT
NPC-OBC (Head Office)
Diliman, Quezon City

(PDI - March 13 & 14, 2002)

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
MAYNILA, PILIPINAS

PREQUALIFICATION, BIDS AND AWARDS COMMITTEE

INVITATION FOR PREQUALIFICATION/ELIGIBILITY

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas (BSP) invites interested general building contractors currently accredited with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) to apply for pre-qualification / eligibility and if later found eligible/qualified, to bid for the project described below:

Project Title : Proposed SPC Parking Lot
Scope of Work : Furnishing of all materials, labor, tools, equipment, technical supervision and other services and performing all testing and operations necessary for (1) site development which includes earthworks, asphalt pavement works for driveways, concrete pavers for parking and landscaping works; (2) building works for guardhouse and driver's waiting lounge and toilet; (3) sanitary / plumbing works; and (4) electrical works.
Project Location : Agham Road corner East Avenue, Quezon City
Approved Budget : Pesos Eleven Million Six Hundred Sixty Thousand (P11,660,000.00)
Source of Funding : Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas
Minimum Requirement (Criteria)
PCAB License/IAC Classification : IAC Category at least Medium (Road, Highway pavement, Railways, Airport horizontal structures and Bridges) and at least small (Park, Playground and Recreational Work)
Contractor's Construction Experience : Has completed in the past five (5) years at least three (3) construction of parking lot including roads one of which costs not less than five million pesos (P5,000,000.00).
Equipment (owned or leased) to be utilized during project implementation : Motor grader (125hp); Vibratory Tamping Foot Roller (8T); Pneumatic Tired Roller (14T Water Tank Truck with pump (500-1000gal); Vibratory Tandem Roller (7T); Bulldozer (180-hp) and at least three Dump Trucks (7-8 cum)
Credit Line / Cash Deposit Certificate Req't. : Pesos One Million One Hundred Sixty Six Thousand (P1,166,000.00)
Prequalification / Eligibility Statement Forms
Cost of Forms : Two Hundred Pesos per set (P 200.00/set)
Date and Time of Issuance : Mar. 14 to Apr. 01, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance and Submission of Accomplished Eligibility/Statement Documents : PBAC Secretariat Rm 204 (Tel No. 524-7011 loc 3143) 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex A. Mabini corner P. Ocampo (former V. Cruz) Streets, Manila
Deadline of Submission : April 4, 2002 10:00 AM
Notice of Eligibility / Ineligibility
Date and Time of Issuance : April 10, 2002 / 9:30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Place of Issuance : PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Bid / Tender Documents : Shall be issued only to eligible/prequalified contractors upon payment of the non-refundable cost of the documents.
Cost of Documents / Place of Issuance : Five Thousand Pesos per set (P 5,000.00/set) PBAC Secretariat Rm 204
Date and Time of Issuance : April 11, 2002 / 9.30 am to 12:00 nn & 1:30 pm to 4:00 pm
Pre-bid Conference
Date and Time : April 16, 2002 9:30 AM
Venue : BMD Conference Room / 2nd Floor - Five Storey Building BSP Complex
Submission and Opening of Bids
Deadline/Venue of Submission : April 29, 2002 / 9:00 am to 10:00 am / PBAC Secretariat Room 204

Date, Time and Venue of Issuance of Bid Documents, Pre-Bid Conference and Deadline of Submission/Opening of Bids shall be confirmed in the Notice of Eligibility.

For inquiries, please call PBAC Secretariat - telephone no. 524-7011 local 3143.

Schedule for issuance of notice for eligibility/ineligibility up to deadline of submission of bids may be subject to change.

Guidelines stipulated in the provisions of PD 1594 and its Implementing Rules and Regulations, as amended and other applicable rules & regulations shall apply relative to pre-qualification/eligibility, bidding, evaluation of bids & awards of contract.

BSP reserves the right to accept or reject any or all bids or parts thereof, to waive any defect or formality therein, or accept such bid or award any part thereof to any contractor/s whose bid/s is/are evaluated to be most advantageous to BSP. Furthermore, BSP is not obligated to compensate/indemnify the contractor for any expenses or loss that may be incurred in the preparation of bids nor does it guarantee that an award of contract will be made.

(Sgd.) MARCOS J. SIONGCO, JR.
Chairman

(PDI--Mar. 14, 23 and 28, 2002)

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REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES
Province of Cebu
OFFICE OF THE GOVERNOR

INVITATION TO APPLY FOR ELIGIBILITY AND TO BID

The Provincial Government of Cebu through the Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee (PBAC) invites qualified Contractors with "AAA" License, and registered with the Philippine Contractors Accreditation Board (PCAB) as Large "B" for Buildings, and/or Joint Venture groups with same or more total capability to participate in the Public Bidding for the Construction of Cebu Farmers Market and South Bus Terminal Commercial Complex in N. Bacalso St., Cebu City.

Interested bidders are requested to submit a Letter of Intent and updated Pre-C to the Chairman, Prequalification Bids and Awards Committee, prior to the Issuance of the Plans and Bid Documents.

The Contract shall include the complete construction of the said five storey building with a total floor area of around 63,000 square meters

Including the following items of work:

- Foundation works including bored piles
- Concrete Works
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- Civil Works
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- Architectural Works
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- Pre-stressed Concrete
- Sanitary Works including WWTP

Implementation of the Contract Works is expected to commence in Early September 2002 and should be completed within 365 calendar days.

Minimum Equipment Requirement:

Equipment Type	Quantity	Availability
Bored Piling Equipment	2 units	owned or leased
Dump Trucks 5 cu.m. Cap.	4 units	owned
Back Hoe (crawler type) 0.5m³ Cap.	3 units	owned
Payloader	2 units	owned
Concrete Mixers (transit - 5-6 m³)	4 units	owned or leased
Concrete Batching Plant 60m³/hr.	1 unit	owned or leased
Concrete Pump	2 units	owned or leased
Tower Cranes, 5 tons	2 units	owned or leased
Mini Vibro Compactors, 1 ton	3 units	owned or leased
Hydraulic Telescopic Boom/Crane, 25-30 tons	2 units	owned or leased
Rammer 330x220 mm	2 units	owned or leased
Electric Generators	2 units	owned
Air Compressors	3 units	owned
Welding Machine 300 Amp	2 units	owned
Bar Cutter & Bender, 28mm Cap.	2 units	owned

Dates and Deadline for Submission of the following documents

	Dates	Time	Place
Submittal of Letter of Intent & Issuance of Pre-C	March 27 to April 3, 2002	8:00 - 5:00	PEO
Deadline of Submission of Pre-C documents	April 12, 2002	8:00 - 5:00	PEO
Issuance of Notice to Prequalified Contractor	May 10, 2002	8:00 - 5:00	PEO
Issuance of Plans & Bid Documents	May 27 & 28, 2002	8:00 - 5.00	PEO
Pre-bidding Conference	July 11, 2002	2:00 PM	PGO
Dropping of Bids	July 19, 2002	9:00 - 10:00 AM	PGO
Opening of Bids	July 19, 2002	10:30 AM	PGO

Set of Plans and related documents can be obtained from the Office of the Provincial Engineer upon Payment of a non-refundable amount of P35,000.00.

The Province of Cebu accepts Bid Securities/Performance Bond in the form of Cash, Managers Check and Bidder's Bond through GSIS only.

The Province of Cebu reserves the right to reject any or all bids, waives any defect contained therein and accept the offer most advantageous to the Government.

(Sgd.) PABLO P. GARCIA
Governor
Chairman, PBAC
Province of Cebu

(PDI - March 14, 18 & 21, 2002)

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PUBLIC NOTICES

ANNOUNCEMENT

Notice is given that the estate of the late TEODORO Y. TOLENTINO, SR has been settled extrajudicially per Doc 345, Page 1, Book XIV, Series of 2002 of Notary Public El Cid C. Fajardo of Pasig City
(PDI-Mar. 14, 21 & 28, 2002)

AUCTION SALE

MEYCAUAYAN-FILIPINAS Pawnshop, Aliw Complex, Calvario, Meyc. Bulacan.
All unredeemed pledges of Sept. 2001 will be auctioned on March 21, 2002, 8:30 am.
Lanuza & Sons-Auctioneer

BUSINESS OPPORTUNITIES

4 Ways 2 Earn 0919-7439808

BUSINESS SPACE NEAR McDONALD P. CAMPA CORNER ESPANA LOCATED AT 926 P. CAMPA SAMP/CALL: 735-1292/735-1343 735-1344

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GREAT NEWS ! IF UR NOT EARNING OVER 20GT/m @ UR PRSNT NETWRK BUS. LETS TALK NOW 8072359 RESH

VENDO MACHINE BIZNEZ!! EARN 10-20K/M 45T/ONLY 0919-4484564/666-3386

PUBLIC NOTICES

LEGAL NOTICE

Notice is given that the estate of the late DALMACIO PERNICIA was extrajudicially settled before Doc# 344 Page# 68 Book# XXIX Notary Public Reynaldo Bernardo of Rizal PDI 3 /7,14,21,2002

Notice is given the estate of the late ALEJANDRO G. LINGAD has been extrajudicially settled among his heirs as per Doc No. 170; Page No. 34; Book No. CXIV; Series 1991 before Notary Public Pedro L. Llangco of Bacolor Pampanga.
(PDI-March 7, 14 & 21, 2002)

Notice is given that the estate of late RAFAEL L. MENDOZA has extrajudicially settled by and among his heirs as per Doc. 321 Page 65 Book XXII Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Gaudencio S. Mercado of Quezon City
PDI-March 7, 14 & 21, 2002

Notice is hereby given that the estate of the late NATALIA C. WYSON has been extrajudicially settled among her heirs per Doc #408; Page #63; Book #34; Series of 2002 before Notary Public Atty. Norman P. Bagriel PTR 548465
(PDI - 2/28, 3/7 & 14, 2002)

NOTICE TO THE PUBLIC
This is to inform the public that Mr. SENEN ROMERO residing at 1794 Don Pablo, Villa Dolores, Angeles City, Pampanga has ceased to represent SIGJOHN PHARMACEUTICAL CO., INC. effective February 19, 2002. Any transaction government or private entered into by above person for and in behalf of the company will not be honored. SIGJOHN PHARMA

NOTICE OF LOSS

Notice is given that DON MARIANO TRANS CORP. Plate Nos. PVG 393, 662, 398, 382 NYG 793, 833, 843, 823 PVV 852, 218, 228, 238, 248 PVV 258, 438, 278, 288 TVV 420, PWA 128, 148, 198 PWA 118, 178 TVX 986, 966 TVX 976, 545, 565, TVK 430 PWL 470, PWC 217, 237, 227 PWC 128 NXL 885, 989, 987 NXL 661 PWZ 142 PVY 142 PVF 852
KING OF KINGS TRANS CORP Plate Nos. PYK 713, 733, PYL 353, 343 PYL 313, 393, 303 PYG 755 PYG 835, 840, 830, 810, 780 PYG 815, 820 PYL 413 PYK 403 PYJ 737, 697 PYK 723 PYN 410, 426 PWR 117, 216, 226 PWN 241were lost.
(PDI - March 14, 2002)

PERSONAL

NOVENA TO THE MOST SACRED HEART OF JESUS
May the most Sacred Heart of Jesus be praised, blessed, loved, adored and glorified throughout the whole world now and forever. Amen.
Most Sacred Heart of Jesus. Pray for us.
Thank you very much, Most Sacred Heart of Jesus for favor granted.

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Labor and Employment
OSHC **OCCUPATIONAL SAFETY AND HEALTH CENTER**
North Avenue corner Agham Road, Diliman, Quezon City
Tel. Nos. 929-6036 to 39

NOTICE OF VACANT POSITION

(1) SR. INDUSTRIAL HYGIENIST

SG-19 (P16,792.00); CS Professional; preferably Bachelor's degree in Engineering or Chemistry; (2) two years of relevant experience; (8) eight hours of relevant training.

NOTE: Incomplete requirements will not be processed.

Requirements:

☑ Comprehensive Resumé with 2x2 picture
☑ CSC Eligibility/Board Rating
☑ Transcript of Records (Certified True Copy)
☑ Diploma (Certified True Copy)
☑ Certificate of Trainings Attended
☑ Certificate of Employment (if applicable)

Send Resumé to: The Office of the Executive Director, Occupational Safety and Health Center, North Avenue corner Science Road, Diliman, Quezon City or through e-mail: oshcenter@oshc.dole.gov.ph. Deadline for submission is on 18 March 2002.

AUCTION SALE

COMPLETE FRANRICA TOMATO PASTE PROCESSING PLANT; STEAM BOILER; CATERPILLAR GENERATING SET; AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT

IN OVER 1,500 LOTS INCLUDING:-

TOMATO PASTE 30T/HR PROCESSING PLANT - (4) Unloading Hydraulic Flood Booms; Stainless Steel Fruit Transfer Flumes; USECO BYRON JACKSON Pumps; Stainless Steel Straining Conveyors; (2) Stainless Steel FMC Elevated Fruit Conveyors; FMC Ten Position Manual Fruit Sorting Table; FMC 40hp Fruit Chopper, FMC Rotary Coil Hot Break Tank (Suitable for Cold Break); Stainless Steel Fruit Holding Tank w/ Agitator; FENCO DT-800 Turbo Extractor; Stainless Steel Juice Holding Tank w/ Agitator; FMC Triple Effect Evaporator; FMC 11/4" Steam Injector Sterilizer; FMC 60" Flash Cooler/Separator; FMC Aseptic Cold Paste Holding Tank; FMC Puree Sterilizer; FMC ABF 200 (rebuilt 1994)/ABF 1200 Bag-in-Box Aseptic Filling Machines (to 300 Gal. Cap.); A Large Qty. Of FMC Spare Parts, etc.
PLANT SERVICES - CATERPILLAR 3512 1500KVA Diesel Generator (low hours); BABCOCK & WILCOX Thermax STS 21T/hr 1500psi Bunker Oil Fired Water Tube Boiler; ATLAS COPCO GA22/(2) GA18 Screw Type Air Compressors; (2) ATLAS COPCO FD40 Air Dryers; BALTIMORE Three Fan Induced Water Cooling Plant; DURR OLIVER Waste Water Filtration & CIP System; (4) TORNADO Water Treatment Aspirating Aerators w/ Stainless Steel Floats, etc.
LABORATORY - VWR 1146 Test Bath; NAPCO 8000-DSE Autoclave Precision 815 Low Temp Incubator; VWR 1555 Incubator; VWR 1350FM Forced Air Oven; VWR 1430/MEMERT Lab Ovens; LABCONCO Purifier Exhaust; OLYMPUS/LEICA Metallurgical Microscopes; LEICA Stereo Zoom Microscopes; HUNTER Optical Sensor w/ DRO; ORION Digital P.H. Meter; METTLER AT261 Digital Scales; LEICA Colony Counter; G.E. Vacuum Pumps; Laboratory Beam Scales; LEICA Refractometer; Water Purifier; A Qty. Of Lab. Glassware; A Qty. Of Lab. Chemicals; A Qty. Of Lab. Furniture, etc.
AGRICULTURAL EQUIPMENT - (4) DAEDONG Hand Tractors; (2) Trailers; SOLO Mist Blower Power Sprayer; Asstd. Stainless Steel Knapsack Sprayers; Wire Fruit Baskets; Fruit Irrigation Equipment; BRIGGS & STRATTON 133432 Water Pumps;
LOOSE TOOLS & EQUIPMENT - MAKITA Cut-off Saws; Asstd. Chain Blocks (to 2T Cap.); Asstd Lever Type Chain Blocks; Asstd. MAKITA/BLACK & DECKER Power Tools; SNAP-ON Bearing Puller Set; SNAP-ON Combi Wrench Sets; SNAP-ON Impact Socket Sets; CRAFTSMAN Tool Boxes; CRAFTSMAN Safetyware; Asstd. H.S.S. Cutting Tools; Oxy/Acetylene Sets; Asstd. Screwdriver Sets; MILLER Dialarc 250 AC/DC Welding Set; HILTI TE18-M, DX450 Rotary Impact Drills; Asstd. Socket Sets; Chisel/Wad Punch Sets; Pipe Threading Tools; VISE Grips; BLUE POINT Tool Sets, etc.
MISC. & SPARE PARTS - Asstd. Large Cap. Electric Motors (to 200hp); Portable Agitators w/ Controls; Asstd. Chemicals/Paints; Asstd. Valves; Asstd. Gauges; Asstd. Castor Wheels; CATERPILLAR Fuel/Air Filters/Regulators; Asstd. Sanitary Ware; Asstd. Stainless Steel C.I/PVC Pipe Fittings; Asstd. Brackets; Asstd. Scaffolding/Pipe Clamps; Asstd. Bearings; Asstd. Stainless Steel Fasteners; Asstd. Lifting Gear incl. Hooks/D-Shackles; Copper/Stainless Steel Tubing; Asstd. Electrical Spare Parts; Ventilation Systems; High Power Flood Lights w/ Towers; A Huge Qty. Of High Cap. Electrical Cable; Asstd. Conveyor Belting; Contents of Clinic; Wooden Warehouse Racking; Demountable Buildings; KOPPEL/CARRIER/NATIONAL Split/Window Type Air Conditioners, A Large Qty. Of G.I. Wire, etc.
VEHICLES - TOYOTA Tamaraw FX Service Vehicle (1994); 125CC Motorcyle; CATERPILLAR DP30 3T Cap. Diesel Forklift

AT: BUKIDNON RESOURCES CO. INC. - Bgy. Diklum, Manolo Fortich, Bukidnon, Philippines
ON: Tuesday 19th March (and if required) Wednesday 20th March 2002 - 10:30am Prompt
ON VIEW: Monday 18th March 2002, 9:00am - 5:00pm & Morning of Sale Day (and earlier by appointment)
A registration deposit will be required

HENRY BUTCHER
Industrial Auctioneers & Valuers

HENRY BUTCHER INTERNATIONAL PHILS. INC.
102 Ground Floor, Jollliand Bldg., 670 EDSA, Pasay City
Tel: (63-2)-852 2910 * 11 Fax: (63-2)-831-9507
E-mail: manila@henrybutcher.com
www.henrybutcher.com

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

NOTICE TO DEPOSITORS OF THE CLOSED RURAL BANK OF PILI (Camarines Sur), Inc. (RBPI)

1. Pursuant to the commitment of the Philippine Deposit Insurance Corporation (PDIC) to promptly service claims for insured deposits, an initial payoff scheme is being adopted in the closed Rural Bank of Pili (Camarines Sur), Inc. for the settlement of insured deposits with balances of P10,000.00 and below. Depositors whose deposit balances are within the said amount are requested to proceed directly to the premises of the said closed bank from March 13 to March 22, 2002, Mondays thru Fridays, 8:00 AM to 5:00 PM, where PDIC representatives are stationed to accept claims and entertain queries of depositors.

   Settlement of insured deposits above P10,000.00 will be made and announced as soon as the examination of deposits is completed by PDIC.

2. Depositors are advised to present the following requirements to our representatives when filing their claims:

   a. Original evidence of deposit such as Savings Passbook and/or Certificate of Time Deposit; and
   b. Latest identification document (ID) bearing the depositor's signature.

   Other documents may be required by our representatives in the course of their processing of claims filed.

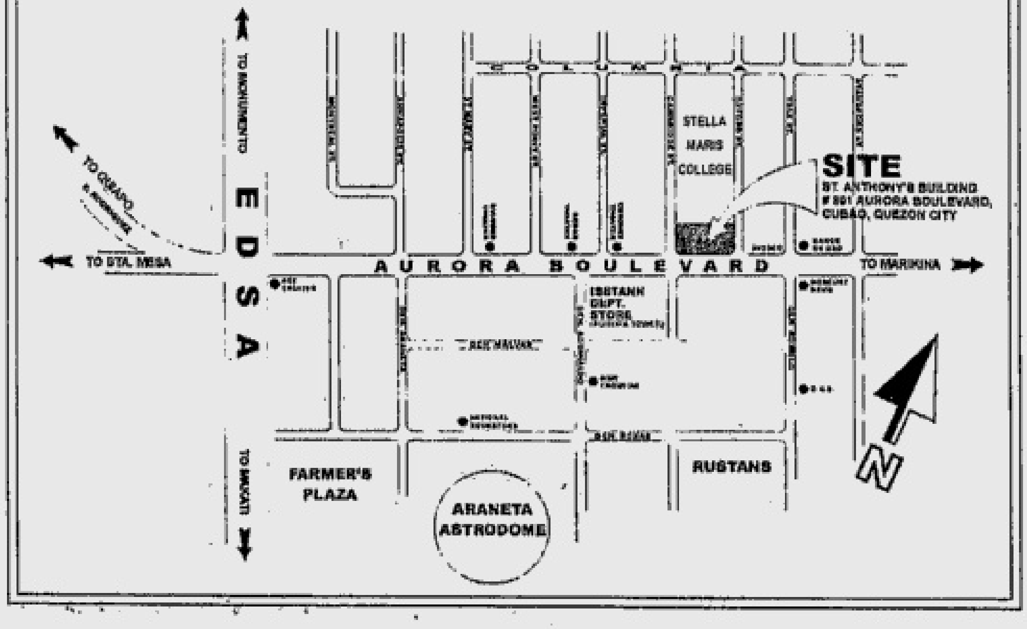
3. Pursuant to the provisions of R.A. 3591 as amended by R.A. 7400, the prescriptive date (last day) for filing of claims for insured deposits in the closed Rural Bank of Pili (Camarines Sur), Inc. is on **August 12, 2003**. After **August 12, 2003**, PDIC as insurer, shall no longer accept any claim for insured deposits maintained with the said closed bank.

PHILIPPINE DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

(PDI--Mar. 12 & 14, 2002)

INQUIRER CLASSIFIEDS

Aurora branch is now open to serve your Classified Ads requirements.
For inquiries, please call **912-9008** to **11**.



Republic of the Philippines
DEPARTMENT OF FINANCE
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II-B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING SHIPMENTS AND THE PUBLIC AUCTION THEREOF

WHEREAS, the herein described items/goods were separately imported on various dates at the Manila International Container Port, which up to the present, no Customs Import Entry has been filed thereon respectively, or if such Entry has been filed thereon, no further claim/adjudication was made thereto by their respective consignee/importer or such rightful claimant within the period fixed by Law, to wit:

ARRIVAL	REG. NO.	CONSIGNEE	DESCRIPTION
5/8/00	TMA-081	Carmelite Monastery	6 ctns. Used clothings - 5 kgs. N.w. per ctn.
5/8/00	TMA-081	Blessed Hope Bible	7 ctns. Used clothings - 5 kgs. N.w. per ctn.
9/24/00	TMA-181	The Pharmedic Calendar	4 ctns. 2001 calendar - 5 kgs./ctn.
11/12/00	WHL-092	SS Commercial	2 ctns. Brick games - 50 pcs./ctn.
8/29/01	FJS-140	Globe Telecom	7 crt. Globe manuals - n.w. 30 kgs./cs. 1 cs. Globe manuals - n.w. 15 kgs.
8/6/01	TMA-140	Jessie Cruz	1 cs. Used motorcycle - Kawasaki GPZ400R, red 400 cc
10/11/01	TMA-182	Tapex Inc.	5 boxes packaging tapes at 24 pcs./box
11/13/01	TMA-204	Piling Piling Pinoy	20 boxes Lorins patis - 12 bottles of 33.70 oz. per bottle 50 boxes Kaong white - 24 bottles of 12 oz. per bottle
4/10/01	TMA-061	Team Pacific	1 ctn. TO-268 Lead Frame - 60,000 pcs.

WHEREAS, the failure of the consignee/importer and such other rightful claimant, to claim/adjudicate his/her importation, shall be deemed to be a renunciation of all his/her interest and property rights, in favor of the government, pursuant to Section 1801 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended by Republic Act 7651, and be auctioned after ten (10) days from the date of posting/adveritsement.

SO ORDERED.

Manila International Container Port, Manila, Philippines, this 7th day of March 2002.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EMELITO V. VILLARUZ**
District Collector

(PDI -- March 14, 2002)

Republic of the Philippines
Department of Finance
BUREAU OF CUSTOMS
Collection District II - B
MANILA INTERNATIONAL CONTAINER PORT

NOTICE OF OVERSTAYING SHIPMENTS AND THE PUBLIC AUCTION THEREOF

WHEREAS, the herein described items/goods were separately imported on various dates at the Manila International Container Port, which up to the present, no Customs Import Entry has been filed thereon respectively, or if such Entry has been filed thereon, no further claim/adjudication was made thereto by their respective consignee/importer or such rightful claimant within the period prescribed by Law, to wit;

Location: PAC ATLANTIC LINES (PHILS.) INC.

Date Stripped	Reg. No.	Consignee	Description
6/22/99	MSK-044	Merck Inc.	1 pallet - 3 ctns., 75 kgs. pigments (powder) 1 ctn., 6 bottles, 1 kg./btl. Colorona Russet (liquid)
8/23/99	PCL-028	Kapai Mining	1 pkg. Plastic scrap materials
4/17/00	FJS-056	Regional Technical Office	1 pallet - 3 ctns. 114 copies study guide (Republic of Panama) National Merchant Marine Examination System. 4 ctns. certificate for seamen form. - cerfiticate as a qualified rating form - application for seamen identity card form - examination questioner (Made in Panama)
5/25/00	FSS-024	Gospel Recording Phils.	1 pallet - 28 bxs. = 1,960 copies of religious calendar (2001; 18 pages each)
7/26/00	FSS-033	Rev. Renato S. Bravo	1 pallet - 20 bxs. - 1,934 copies of religious books and booklets
4/28/00	APL-072	Indentrade Sys. Corp.	1 pallet - 1 pc. used gear (6"), 1 pc. used water pump w/out motor and 1pc. upper block cover.

WHEREAS, the failure of the consignee/importer and such other rightful claimant to claim/adjudicate his/her importation, shall be deemed to be a renunciation of all his/her interest and property rights, in favor of the government, pursuant to Section 1801 of the Tariff and Customs Code of the Philippines, as amended by Republic Act 7651, and be auctioned after ten (10) days from the date of posting/advertisement.

SO ORDERED.

Manila International Container Port, Manila, Philippines, this 7th of March 2002.

(Sgd.) **ATTY. EMELITO V. VILLARUZ**
District Collector of Customs

(PDI - March 14, 2002)

MOTORING

Editor **Cesar D. Mangawang**

Much ado about auctioned vehicles

By Charles E. Buban

BY NOW, you may have heard of the issue regarding secondhand, imported vehicles. The auction of these type of vehicles either in Metro Manila (Valenzuela and Malinta) or Subic in Zambales is a thriving business that recently made headlines when various American and Japanese assemblers including the Federation of Philippine Industries protested to the government about their proliferation here in the country.

Both the American and the Japanese chambers of commerce appealed to President Macapagal-Arroyo to stop the "explosion" of used-vehicle imports that was threatening to turn the Philippines into a "dumping ground" for used vehicles from other markets.

Responding to their plea, the government, particularly the Department of Trade and Industry, is now planning to take legal action against firms which auction off this type of vehicles.

Malacañang has also formed an oversight committee consisting of business representatives headed by Raul Concepcion, chair of the Federation of Philippine Industries, who would take a direct hand in monitoring and curbing smuggling. The group would focus initially in Subic and Cebu where smuggling, including that of used vehicles, are believed to be rampant.

Defending the business

For a number of sectors that believe these auctioning firms' activities are illegal, there are also others who believe the business is legal. A statement issued by the Taiwan Chamber of Commerce and Industry in the Philippines defends the importation of used cars in the country, saying the business is in fact contributing to the country's economy.

Says Philip Jean, president of the chamber composed of Taiwanese investors representing major industries: "Used car market plays a significant contribution to the country's economic growth. We should remember that what we have here are vehicle assemblers but even they also use vehicle components that are mostly imported. To brand these auctioneers smugglers is unfair, a lot of them are doing a legitimate business."

The Taiwanese chamber believes the issue here should not be about banning the business but to find ways in controlling or setting up regulations in the used vehicle import business. "That is, if the government really finds anything illegal in them because if you look at it, they also pay their taxes and employ a lot of people which the assemblers here are also doing," adds Jean.

Speaking on behalf of their colleagues, a number of auctioneers are also coming out to explain the operation of their trade. They say one reason fueling mistrust is that a lot of people don't know their line of trade.

"We cater to a different market. If you have the money, you don't go straight to us. You buy the latest model. But let's face it, not everybody can afford to buy a new vehicle. What they do is to find ways to get the best buy out of their limited budget and that's where we may come into the picture," explains Dominic Sytin of United Auctioneers Inc., one of the biggest auctioning firms based in Metro Manila.

Sytin believes that they are not driving the American and Japanese assemblers out of business. "We are just underscoring the free flow of goods and services in the global economic market. Our business provides what traditional dealers cannot provide: offer a variety of items ranging from rare heavy equipment to the more popular six-wheeler trucks, farm tractors and even equipment like generators," he explains.

Thriving business

The recent economic slowdown in the region contributed much to the popularity of auctioning in the Philippines. Filipino buyers who are looking for a means to squeeze more from their depreciating peso discovered that auctioning is a better means of acquiring properties,

During an auction, a buyer gets only what he can afford since auctioneers do not peg any minimum price. The buyers are the ones who determine it. "If one's budget for a truck is P100,000, the auction system will allow him to buy one at that price. He'll no longer have to go home empty-handed and disappointed?" says Sytin.

USED CARS FOR AUCTION
JED E.

ILLUSTRATION: JED ESTRADA

One of the sectors most favored by this type of selling is the local government. "For a small municipality with limited budget, where else can they go but to these auctions where they can make better use of their limited funds and receive more value for their money," says Sytin.

Indeed, based on past auctions of United Auctioneers, approximately 35 percent of its buyers are local government units like provincial governments, congressional districts, cities and municipalities, and even barangays. This is apart from the other 35 percent that is composed of private contractors also accredited by the government to do most of its projects.

"If you take these two type of buyers into account, 60 to 70 percent of the trucks, heavy equipment and service vehicles that are directly and indirectly involved in paving roads, building bridges, constructing hospitals, schools and low-cost housing units were mostly bought through auctions," reveals Sytin.

Contribution to government

Like any other business operating here in the country, Sytin says that auctioning firms also pay their dues. Along with the other local auctioning firms, Sytin reveals that they have generated more than P300-million worth of revenues for the government in terms of duties and taxes, more than P60 million in terms of land lease to the Subic Bay Metropolitan Authority and more than P15 million by way of port charges.

"Obviously, the biggest beneficiary here is the general public. In every auction that we hold, everybody has the same chance of buying a good quality equipment at a very good price. No wonder we normally attract more than 1,500 buyers every auction day," reveals Sytin.

Sytin also says the government also requires its vehicles to undergo safety and environmental check. All vehicles imported are subject to the scrutiny by the Land Transportation Office, through its Motor Vehicle Inspection Section, which conducts an emission control test, a headlight alignment test and an examination of the conversion from right-hand to left-hand drive. The MVIS will then assess the importer's compliance with its safety standards with respect to the installation of the conversion kits.

The Smoke Emission Test is required by the Department of Transportation and Communications in compliance with Republic Act 8749 otherwise known as the Clean Air Act of 1999.

Ensuring roadworthiness

Safety concerns of these converted vehicles became a hot topic in recent years when they figured in several accidents and near accidents. "Like in any quality control system, breaks may crop up. It happened to the best of companies, it could happen to any of us. That's why we are doubling our efforts to ensure the safety and roadworthiness of all our vehicles. As a matter of fact, insurance companies would certainly shy away from insuring our repositioned vehicles if they are indeed 'unsafe' for road use," claims Sytin.

In a similar development, the Motor Vehicles Importers Association of the Subic Bay Freeport Inc. is now coordinating with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority to certify its mechanics overseeing these converted imported vehicles. "We believe this move will be instrumental in having a standard criteria with regard to ensuring the roadworthiness of all imported secondhand vehicles coming in to us," says Eduardo Baretto, president of the association representing auctioneers and motor vehicle importers based in Subic.

Facts about auctions

AUCTION is just another form of marketing being practiced in many countries like the United States, Japan, Saudi Arabia and Germany. Here in the Philippines, the business is relatively new. Auction simply means the buying and selling of real and personal property through open public bidding (in this case an imported, secondhand vehicle).

The traditional auction process involves a succession of increasing bids or offers by potential purchasers until the highest (and final) bid is accepted by the auctioneer who is usually an agent of the seller (in this case, the companies from abroad who consigned their vehicles to these auctioning companies).

Unreserved

In an unreserved public auction, which is more commonly employed by auctioneers here, all the items during auction are sold with no minimum price and every item, must be sold out. The bidders set the price at which they want to start the bidding and the item is awarded to the bidder who is able to give the highest price for the item.

The unreserved auction system was introduced here as early as 1995 but it became popular in 1999 when Subic Freeport zone in Zambales hosted some of the biggest auction events. The vehicles sold are at least five years old and mostly right-hand-drive models from abroad so they require conversion to left-hand drive to fit in Philippine roads.

Low prices

The auction allows buyers to purchase vehicles and equipment such as generators at a price 500 percent to 1,000 percent less than the cost of its brand-new counterpart.

How is this possible? The auction process shortens the marketing and distribution chain by doing away with importers, dealers, retailers and agents. The process cuts down commissions required at each level. And because of the volume, auctioneers are able to get substantial discounts on freight and handling costs from the country of origin.

Charles E. Buban

AUCTIONEERS' STATEMENT

Prohibitive cost of new vehicles leaves out common folk

By Tessa R. Salazar

COL. Segundo Jr. used carabaos to transport seedlings to his plantations. The availability of a secondhand 4x4 pickup which he bought for P300,000 made the process faster and more efficient, and this won him the Model Tree Planter award in Nueva Vizcaya and Palawan.

Had the alternative been to buy a P1-million brand-new 4x4, he would have gone back to using his good old carabao since the same amount would already have been the entire investment for planting for the next 10 years.

This was one of the arguments raised by Romy Armamento, president of the Association of Philippine Auctioneers, in a statement handed by Asia International Auctioneers Inc. operations manager Jenny Armamento to the INQUIRER, defending the business of auctioning off used, imported cars in the country.

Old issue

Armamento pointed out that the lobbying for the stoppage of selling used, imported cars is already an old issue. It did not prosper for the reason that disallowing it would be detrimental to the Philippine economy as a whole since the majority of the sectors—local government units, farmers, fishermen, contractors, hauling/logistic companies—cannot possibly afford to survive working with new machines due to the prohibitive cost.

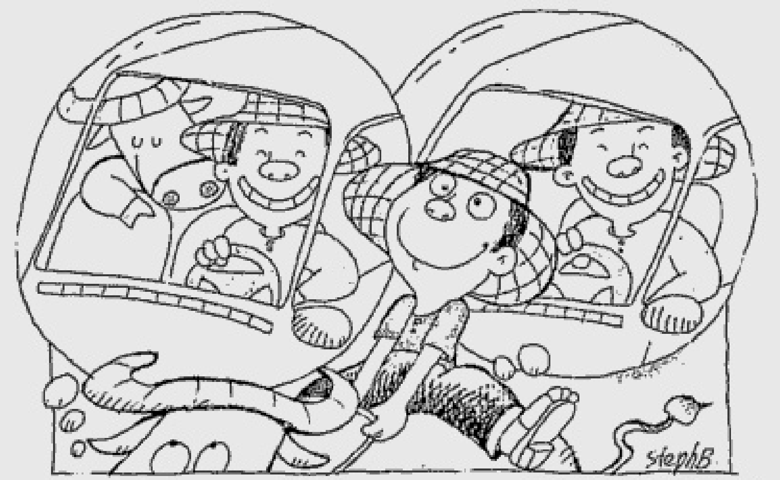


ILLUSTRATION: STEPH BRAVO

Armamento cited the huge scarcity of fire trucks in the country. He said that one fire truck alone costs P2.5 million. "In the auctions, some local government units were able to bid for a 10-ton Nissan fire truck for only P500,000."

Affordable

He quoted Willie Castor, president of the National Constructors Association of the Philippines (Nacap), who said that even the Philippines' top 10 contractors cannot afford to purchase new equipment.

"For instance, a brand-new Isuzu dump truck could cost P7 million, whereas a secondhand model can be bought for only P700,000. Taking into consideration depreciation and cost of money, this variance can drive the hauling cost for one truckload of sand from Pampanga to Manila from P2,500 to P25,000," said the statement. The statement added that this would cause a domino effect throughout the country. Project costs of infrastructure projects will escalate.

"Given the budget availability, this could lead to delay in completion. Meanwhile, the long travel time of goods from producers to end-users will persist. If the top 10 contractors cannot afford to purchase brand-new trucks and equipment, where does that lead the over 8,000 small and medium-sized contractor members of Nacap?" said the statement.

Buyers' profiles

"We sell to people whose budgets are very limited. These are people who, much as they want to buy brand-new trucks, their financial capacity does not allow them to do that. If you look at our buyers' profiles, we get clients like fish dealers, haulers, retired government officials, farmers, bank tellers and truck dealers," said Armamento.

The auctioneers claim that they are not violating anything. The statement stressed that all the units that are auctioned go through a rigid quality control system to ensure roadworthiness. The DTI-Interagency meetings made all vehicles applying for registration for the first time secure a certificate of compliance to emission standards by the Department of Transportation and Communications after passing inspection at the Motor Vehicle Inspection Section. The association also said it has taken the initiative to coordinate with the Technical Education and Skills Development Authority so that its mechanics would be certified.

Armamento stressed that if the car manufacturers were diligently complying with the tenets of the Motor Vehicle Development Program, they should not be worried about these auctions.

"It is worth pointing out that this MVDP has been a government program since Marcos' time in the '70s. By this time, the manufacturers must be self-sufficient and aggressively exporting already. They should not only remain focused on the local market, which unfortunately, is still dominated by households that will have to continue commuting because they simply cannot afford a P600,000 service vehicle," he said.

Shell launches cleanest, purest diesel

IN KEEPING with its commitment toward a cleaner environment and greater customer satisfaction, Pilipinas Shell Petroleum Corp. introduces Shell Diesoline Ultra, a revolutionary diesel fuel that promises improved pulling power, better fuel economy and reduced smoke.

Said Eliseo Santiago, country chair of the Shell companies in the Philippines: "Shell Diesoline Ultra is our answer to the customers' growing desire for a diesel fuel with clean power and pure performance. It allows your engine to run better, smoother and more efficiently. It is also Shell's answer to the sustainable challenge of a better environment."

Tests have shown that Shell Diesoline Ultra's "keep clean" performance is far superior compared to competitor brands as it significantly minimizes fuel injector clogging, thereby boosting fuel spray and combustion efficiency.

Shell Diesoline Ultra likewise proves its superior "clean up" performance or the ability to eliminate dirt and other deposits left behind by ordinary diesel. Tests showed that Shell Diesoline Ultra removes 10 times more carbon deposit than competitive brands.

With the dual cleaning functions, Shell Diesoline Ultra also makes sure that fuel systems are guaranteed more protection from rust and corrosion, leaving engine components as good as new.

Moreover, Shell Diesoline Ultra ensures safe, quick and accurate filling due to its exceptional antifoam and dissipation properties that significantly reduce bubbling during fuel loading.

Mitsubishi offers deferred payment plans

MITSUBISHI Motors has made vehicle maintenance easier than ever with the Mitsubishi Service Plus Deferred Payment Plans. For a limited time, the promo lets you charge your vehicle service bills to your credit card. Mitsubishi Service Plus Deferred Payment Plans can cover services such as diesel calibration, wash-over painting, heavy preventive maintenance service (PMS) jobs, engine-top overhaul and transmission overhaul.

Under this promo, participating credit cards BPI, Citibank, Diner's Club and Equitable Bank offer zero interest terms up to 6 monthly payment terms, or reduced interest rates from 9- to 24-month payment terms. Also, the service bill doesn't have to be big to avail of the promo, as it lets you charge even with a minimum of P3,000 billing.

Customers may also avail of straight credit purchases for parts and labor interest-free. Under this mode of payment, no minimum purchases are required, while the maximum will still be based on the cardholder's credit limit subject to approval. Meanwhile, Mitsubishi Service Plus Membership cardholders who will be availing of this promo will be given a 5-percent discount on parts and labor. Those who are availing of the heavy PMS jobs will get the regular price.

Do-it-yourself vehicle maintenance tips

JUST as illnesses can be avoided through regular medical checkups, your vehicle also needs habitual performance checks to maintain superb performance. Of course, it is impractical to have regular visits with your mechanic. This is why Centro Manufacturing Corp., the exclusive body makers of the Isuzu passenger van (IPV), is offering some easy-to-do but necessary do-it-yourself maintenance tips to get rid of unwanted car troubles.

Engine oil level. Pull out the level gauge rod or dipstick, wipe it clean and reinsert. Pull it out again to check if the oil level is within the high and low level marks. Remember, the engine oil level should be checked with the vehicle parked on level ground. It has been the practice to check engine oil level before starting the engine when the oil has not yet been disturbed. A growing number of mechanics, however, are suggesting that this should be done immediately after you have started and switched off your engine. This way, you would get an approximation of the engine oil level on its running mode, when the amount of oil is most critical.

Fan belt. Check the belts for visible cracks and damage. Make sure that the fan belt gives a deflection of approximately 10 mm (0.4 inch) when the middle part of the belt is depressed with a force of 10 kg.

Coolant level. Inspect the level of the coolant and replenish the radiator surge tank as necessary up to the "max" line. If the level of coolant is found to be lower than the "min" line, check the cooling system for leaks. Always make sure that the radiator filler cap is secured.

Brake and clutch fluid level. Always ensure that the brake fluid reservoir is filled up to the level mark. If the level is too low, replenish with recommended hydraulic brake fluid.

Windshield washer solution level. Aside from checking if the washer tank is filled sufficiently with solution, also check the operating condition of the windshield washer.

Aircon check. Check or replace the drive belts; clean the radiator and aircon condenser fins. Check the duct outlet temperature. Also check all electrical connections and check hoses and compressor for leaks.

That 'big car' feeling

ON THE ROAD

Aida Sevilla-Mendoza

IF there is any compact car today that gives the driver that reassuring "big car" feeling, it is the Toyota Corolla Altis 1.8G.

Can't afford to maintain and gas up a 2.0-liter medium-size car but still want something that is a bit bigger and more powerful than a 1.6-liter car? Then the Altis 1.8G may be what you're looking for.

As the only locally assembled 1.8-liter passenger sedan in the Philippine car market, the Toyota Corolla Altis 1.8G is eminently positioned to grab market share from the 2.0-liter class as well as the top-of-the-line 1.6-liter models of major competitors.

Capable of delivering 147 ps/6,000 rpm max horsepower and 188 Nm/4,200 max torque, the Altis 1.8G's VVT-i (Variable Valve Timing-intelligent) twin cam engine ou[illegible] the most powerful car in the 1.6-liter class, the Honda Civic VTi-S, which produces 130 ps/6,600 rpm. If you think that's like comparing apples and oranges, then I'd venture to say that the [illegible] 1.8G can give the bigger Honda Accord 2.0-liter VTi (152 ps/6,000 rpm) a run for its money.

VVT-i technology, Toyota's answer to Honda's VTEC-3 system , controls the timing of both intake and exhaust camshafts and the amount of valve lift for maximum engine performance. While other engines change the timing only at extremely high or low rpms, VVT-i computes rpms, throttle opening and other factors to make changes in the fraction of a second according to the power demands on the engine. VVT-i results in higher engine power, better fuel efficiency and cleaner exhaust emission.

The 145/6,000 horsepower rating of the Altis 1.8G is a big leap of an improvement from its predecessor's ouput, the Altis 1.8 SEG's 116 hp/ 5,600 rpm. You can feel that reservoir of power eager to surge the instant your foot touches the Altis 1.8G's gas pedal.

Size-wise, the Altis is bigger and taller than the Civic and the Nissan Sentra Exalta. It is also sleeker and more stylishly sculpted than the other two, which is why its 1.6-liter variant became the best-selling passenger car in that engine displacement category the month after it was launched last July.

The Altis is so aerodynamic that its CD (coefficient of drag) rating is 0.30, equal to that of the sporty and infinitely costlier Lexus GS300. Another Lexus advantage in the Altis 1.8G is the Optitron meter, which lights up the meters only when the ignition is switched on and which comes with a Rheostat function to adjust the brightness for better visibility.

Although "Challenge," Honda Cars Philippines' magazine, points out with glee that the Altis is the narrowest of the three, I didn't notice that at all while driving it. On the contrary, driving the Altis 1.8G makes you feel as if you were at the wheel of a big car, it's that solid, comfy and spacious with satisfactory head room, leg room and shoulder space, thanks to the extended wheelbase.

The Altis 1.8G's interior may not be a[illegible]sh and as loaded with [illegible]ng doodads as the Nissan Exalta Grandeur, but it comprehensively holds its own with its two-tone color scheme, leather seats, leather and wood grain trims on the steering wheel, armrests and center console panel. The chrome-framed gate-type automatic shift lever (the 1.8G comes with automatic transmission only) adds to the luxe environment and offers you the option of sport mode shifting.

Having written previously about the Altis 1.6E ("Will Toyota Do It Again?" Sept. 27, 2001), I will not mention the 1.8G's other specs except for its safety features (dual airbags, ABS), Electronic Brake Force Distribution, four-wheel disc brakes, keyless entry with alarm system, radio cassette/single in-dash CD player with six speakers, side skirts, protective side molding, 15-inch aluminum alloy wheels and 60-series tires.

The Altis 1.8G currently sells for P920,000, or P228,000 less than the 2.0-liter Accord VTi (P1,148,000) but P95,000 more than the 1.6-liter Civic VTi-S (P825,000 with armrest). As I said, if you want a car bigger and more powerful than a 1.6 but not as big or as expensive to operate as a 2.0, then the Altis 1.8G is an excellent—and as of now the only—choice.

* * *

TODAY'S BUMPER STICKER: Don't let your mind wander. It's too little to be left alone.

* * *

E-mail comments to asevilla@inquirer.com.ph

What's next for motorists tested positive for drugs?

By Tessa R. Salazar

Common reasons drivers take drugs

- Prolonging driving endurance
- Boredom
- Peer pressure
- Escapism
- Poor self-image or lack of self-confidence
- Curiosity
- Weak personality (unable to cope with stress in driving)
- Frustration (personal or family problems)

Ill-effects of drugs (shabu and marijuana)

- Distorted perception of distance and time
- Impairing driving ability
- Aggressive and violent driving behavior
- Slowing down drivers' response
- Drowsiness
- Loss of recent memory
- Disorientation
- Hallucination
- Illusions
- Depression
- Confusion

OUT of about 50,000 drivers license applicants in Metro Manila and in Regions 3 and 4, over 2,000 have already tested positive for shabu and marijuana and have been stripped of their privilege to drive. This is just for the period November 2001 to January 2002 alone.

And more and more are being revealed. Recent data also yielded that in just a matter of four days—Feb. 26 to March 1 in the National Capital Region alone—about 19 drug testing centers interconnected in the centralized database already reported 27 applicants positive for shabu use and 31 positive for marijuana.

With the interconnectivity between the 426 accredited drug testing centers nationwide materializing, more motorists who are drug abusers would now find it harder, if not impossible, to get a license. The Land Transportation Office says that those tested positive wouldn't have a chance to circumvent the law by hopping from one drug center to another to get a license.

The LTO said motorists tested positive for the two drugs would be referred to the proper authorities—a counselor and a physician—for further evaluation and to see if these applicants are still capable to drive once treated.

'Tell the truth'

Dr. Carlito Cubelo, a consultant of the Dangerous Drugs Board and a drug counselor for drivers license applicants, said there is still a more vigorous process that the applicants tested positive for drugs have to go through.

His advice for the drug abuser-applicants is to tell the truth than subject themselves to court where a more sophisticated laboratory equipment could scientifically and medically prove that an applicant is a shabu or a marijuana user.

Chance to change

"It's better that the drug abuser tells me the truth so I could help him or her by counseling and formulating a treatment plan. If the applicant voluntarily gives me the information, he or she may have a chance," he said.

Cubelo said that applicants tested positive for drug abuse were requesting him not to totally condemn them and give them a chance to mend their ways.

"I think as long as they go through the process, go to counseling and even out-patient rehabilitation, mental examination and if proven that some of them have just been occasional users, then they could be allowed to drive on a conditional basis."

Closer relationship

LTO's traffic education chief Daisy Jacobo said this is a chance for a closer working relationship between the national government, the local government units and the nongovernment organizations for a follow-through activity and to rehabilitate those who can be rehabilitated.

"Overall, it is not only accidents that you are preventing but overall, the program can help in the campaign against drug abuse and assimilating drug abusers back to society," she said.

Kudos to Globe's F1 feature; here's to Ray Butch

FULL TANK

Al Mendoza

THERE was a mistake here last week.

Not true that Mika Salo, driving a Toyota, failed to score a point in the kickoff leg of Formula 1 in Melbourne on March 3.

He actually did that—score a point by finishing sixth in the crash-marred race won (what else is new?) by defending champion Michael Schumacher.

* * *

Not really a bad start for a rookie. Toyota, in case you still don't know, is seeing its first Formula 1.

Toyota's move to join the Formula 1 this year was actually long overdue. As a giant carmaker whose Corolla has become the world's best-seller for years now, it should have entered the most exciting motor sport a long time ago.

But as the cliché goes, better late than never. Or, as I love to say, late is never late.

My crystal ball says Salo has the formula to score some surprises in the world's No. 1 car race. It can start for Toyota on Sunday, when Kuala Lumpur's Sepang Circuit hosts the second leg.

* * *

Speaking of the Formula 1 race, here's an interesting service feature from Globe:

Globe F1, the country's very first Formula 1 text-messaging service, gives people the power to keep up with F1 racing, the world's fastest sport, anytime, anywhere. By simply texting "F1" and sending it to 2333 on any Globe Handyphone, users get access to a wealth of information on the world of Formula 1.

Through Globe F1, daily F1 news stories can be accessed, and past headlines may even be read. Globe F1 even provides live updates for practice sessions, and period updates during qualifying and the race, all available just a few minutes after they actually occur. Thus, F1 fans need no longer be upset if they are unable to watch events on TV for whatever reason. Through Globe F1, fans are constantly kept aware of F1 goings-on.

Globe F1 also provides race fans with all the necessary information they would want, such as championship standings, the season calendar, team rosters and TV broadcast information. For those wanting to test their F1 knowledge and compete for fantastic prizes, there is the F1 Trivia.

The first F1 Trivia winners were Nono Felipe of Antipolo and Sidney Corro of Cubao, who will shortly be on their way to Sepang, to be a part of the 2002 Malaysian Grand Prix. However, there is no reason to fret for those who missed out on the Malaysian GP package. At stake in the F1 Trivia's April 30 draw are two Fullertone-Rotax 125 racing karts, the perfect prize for F1 fans who want a real feel of the hard edge of racing.

Globe F1 is a service provided by Globe Telecom and m.ph. Inc.

* * *

From my dear buddy Ray Butch Gamboa, this:

Buoyed by the tremendous response and success of last year's biggest revival of the famed Sampaguita Rallies, Shell Helix and Motoring Today team up anew to hold the second staging of the Sampaguita Rally dubbed "Shell Helix-Motoring Today Motor Sports Challenge."

Set on May 4, the car rally flags-off at the Shell North Tollway along the North Luzon Expressway, snaking its way through the scenic towns of Bulacan and Pampanga all the way to Subic Bay.

"Teamwork is the key to winning this event," said Ray Butch, who is the executive producer and host of the weekly television program "Motoring Today." "All three members of the team play crucial roles. What makes this a fun tournament is that every person in the vehicle is dependent on each other's contribution to succeed."

Added Ray Butch, president of Sunshine Television: "It is an ideal motor sport event for family members as well as corporate participants who we believe will enjoy this exciting test of camaraderie."

Those wishing to participate may get in touch with A.J. Garcia or Grace Barroquillo at 895-3004, 895-8792 or fax nos. 896-6339. E-mail registrants may send inquiries to apmpr@pacific.net.ph.

* * *

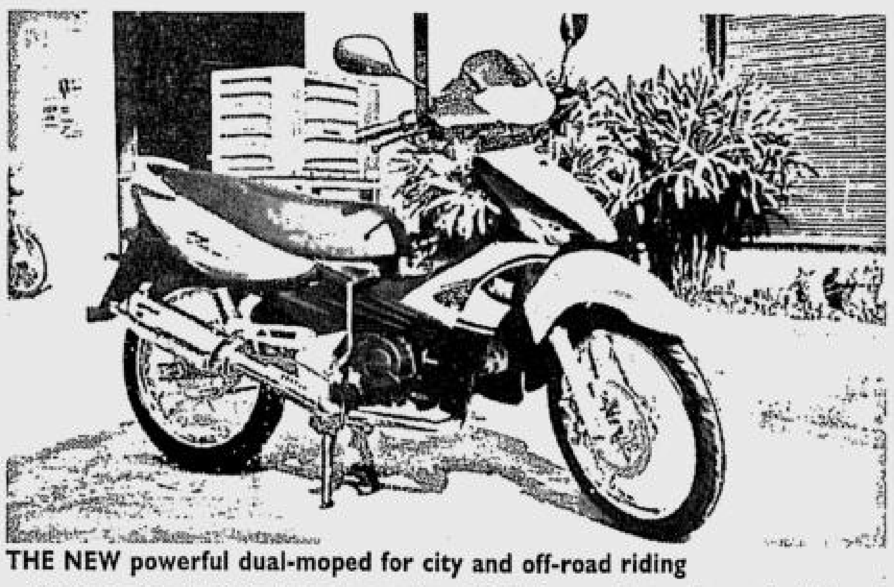
Here's one from Andy Tabios: "When a road debris hits a windshield, it may create a small damage on the glass. This damage is a weak spot in the structure of the windshield. Both stress and temperature change can cause the damage to grow without warning."

He says he can repair the damage before it gets worse. Call him at 926-6829 or 851-0062.

***

QUOTE ME. **Listen to Ariel de Jesus: "Drink but don't drive. Drink after you get home."**

Kymco introduces revolutionary Spike 125



THE NEW powerful dual-moped for city and off-road riding

LOOKING for a better and different kind of motor bike?

Coming to you with a promise of power and elegance is the sporty and revolutionary Spike 125, the new powerful dual-purpose moped (derived from "motor pedal") for city and off-road riding that has recently hit Luzon.

Boasting of a chic look and new user-friendly features that other leading moped brands do not have, this newest offering from S. C. Kymco Pilipinas Inc. would definitely be a cut above the rest.

As its upbeat slogan goes—"Strike it hot, hit it right, get ahead with Kymco Spike."

Winning features

Indeed, you can experience the excitement that goes with the new light moped model, said Gilbert C. Limjoco, Kymco vice president for production, what with its winning features that include a high-kicking 125-cc, 4-stroke engine; a durable mono-shock rear suspension; modern CDI ignition; a stainless muffler angled upward; and a reliable 240mm disk brake.

Other user-friendly features include a control panel that is easy to read and has a gear position indicator, maintenance indicator, fuel gauge, high beam indicator and turning light indicator; a halogen head lamp; a fixed foot rest; and a spacious tool bin.

Limjoco also cited that most mopeds and cubs in the market have an engine displacement of 90 to 110 cc. "This places the Spike on a class of its own, with its 125-cc, 4-stroke, air-cooled engine," he said. It combines the kick, the sporty elegance and the relevant technological ingredients to take on any type of riding challenge."

To top it all, Spike 125 is priced lower than leading moped brands in the market today, he added.

Said Limjoco: "Spike was launched only this February, but we're optimistic and hoping to get a big slice of the pie of the moped market. This is the growth area of the motorcycle segment that we're planning to penetrate. For this moped category it's the first."

The first of a series of mini launches for Spike 125 took place recently in Taytay, Rizal.

"We decided to have a mini launch rather than a grand one," said Rommel T. Santos, Kymco regional sales manager for the Metro Manila/Luzon area, "considering that we wanted more frequency. What we observed was that people are excited because the Spike 125 is different from the traditional mopeds."

The Spike 125 moped is the youngest member of the Kymco family, an addition to its line of scooters, which have been steadily gaining the No. 1 position in terms of market sales in Manila, and tricycle models—particularly the CGI 50—which have made it big in Visayas and Mindanao.

Big advantage

Twenty-nine-year-old Ogie Alcantara, former motocross expert-class rider, has attested to Spike 125's powerful advantages, having did a test-drive of the moped in rugged terrain.

Said the expert rider: "Spike 125 promises riders a big advantage considering that a 4-stroke engine is environment-friendly and maintenance is only minimal. It promises comfort with its mono-shock feature. I also like it for its stylish and safety features. The muffler is in symmetry with the body. The long base dimension is for a smoother, stable run. The 240mm disk brake will really give you stopping power."

The Spike 125 is now available at all Kymco dealerships. S. C. Kymco Pilipinas, which is based in Parañaque City, is a member of the Motorcycle Development Program Participants' Association.

Guaranteed reconditioned transmission in half a day

ZIEBART-CARSAVERS can replace your automatic transmission at less than the cost of a brand-new replacement unit.

WHEN the transmission of a car bogs down, the car is rendered useless—and the only options are to have a new one installed and have the old one repaired.

Repair of the transmission system can take days, or weeks even if parts are not available, and usually gives rise to more problems than one had bargained for. But, on the other hand, a brand-new automatic transmission system doesn't come cheap. It can cost between P167,000 and P230,000 depending on the car's make and model.

Car owners need not despair. CarSavers, one of the country's foremost specialists in vehicle repair and maintenance, has good news. Now, car owners no longer need to spend a fortune for a new transmission system, or wait for weeks for the repair of the old one.

They can "drive away in just half a day" with a good-as-new CarSavers reconditioned automatic transmission unit that carries the longest guarantees in the industry. It has longer guarantee periods than even many brand-new transmissions. That's because CarSavers has in stock reconditioned automatic transmissions of many of the popular car brands, already reassembled and tested, that can be installed in just a few hours.

What's more, the reconditioned unit costs less than half the price of a brand-new one. The company is so confident of the quality of its work that every reconditioned AT unit it installs comes with a guarantee that, as claimed, is even longer than many brand-new ATs.

Car owners will be pleased to know that CarSavers is the country's largest independent, full-service car repair shop that sells the popular Ziebart TidyCar line of detailing, paint and rust protection services, etc. It has more than 30 years track record in the business. It has the expertise, equipment and global standards required to reliably maintain, repair, overhaul and replace automatic or manual transmission systems of vehicles of all makes and models. Whether the vehicle is a van, a rear-wheel-drive sports car, a front-wheel-drive sedan or a 4-wheel-drive SUV or pickup, customers can avail themselves of the whole spectrum of transmission services—from preventive maintenance and diagnosis, to overhaul and replacement.

CarSavers offers complete automotive services all under one roof. Its services include "the fastest, quality-guaranteed body shop in the country" (up to now, the only "three-day full-body paint-job in town").

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Jobless rate down to 10.3%

THE UNEMPLOYMENT rate in the country fell to 10.3 percent in January this year from 11.4 percent in the same period last year despite a slowdown in the economy, the National Statistics Office said yesterday.

The January figure was, however, higher than the 9.8 percent in October last year.

The NSO, which reports unemployment data quarterly, said 3.39 million Filipinos were unemployed in January, down from 3.6 million in January 2001 but up from 3.27 million in October last year.

The labor force in January was 33.0 million, down from 33.3 million in the October survey. Year-on-year, the labor force rose 4.4 percent in January, with employment in the agriculture sector rising 7.4 percent. Farm jobs account for over a third of total jobs.

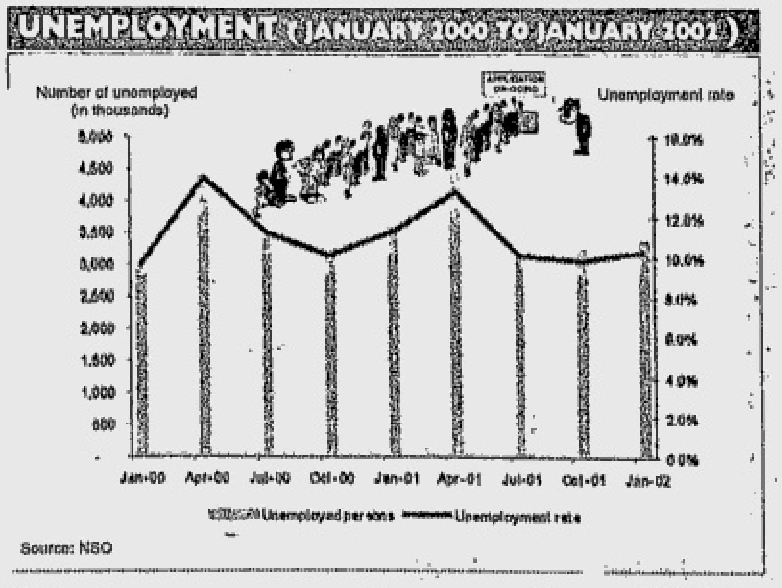
Manila registered the highest unemployment rate in the country of 16.1 percent due to the high number of job seekers coming to the capital. Southern Mindanao, one of the country's poorest regions, had an unemployment rate of 10.7 percent.

Analysts expected an increase in unemployment in the January labor survey compared to the October survey.

"Lingering external trade uncertainty, despite positive news emerging from the US market, and lack of resurgence in domestic demand could lead to job losses," said Salomon Smith Barney economist Jun Trinidad in a recent report.

The unemployment rate is seasonally highest in April, when new graduates join the labor force.

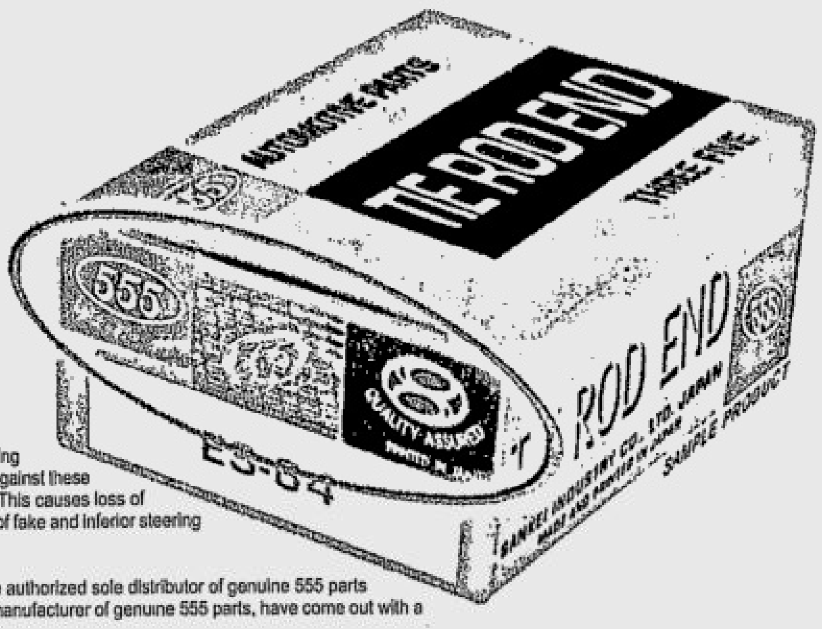
The country's population is around 75 million. *AP, Reuters*


UNEMPLOYMENT (JANUARY 2000 TO JANUARY 2002)

Source: NSO

AVOID ACCIDENTS, SAVE LIVES.

555



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Due to the proliferation of fake 555 parts, *BSB Junrose Auto Parts Corporation*, the authorized sole distributor of genuine 555 parts in the Philippines, in cooperation with *Sankie Industry Co., Ltd.* of Japan, the only manufacturer of genuine 555 parts, have come out with a **BSB Sticker** in every box of 555 parts to guarantee that the parts are genuine

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"Beware of Fake Products"

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Dirty money law rules OKd

By Clarissa S. Batino

THE CONGRESSIONAL bicameral oversight committee on anti-money laundering yesterday signed the implementing rules and regulations governing Republic Act No. 9160 or the anti-money laundering law.

The signing of the IRR, which tightened several provisions of the law, is hoped to satisfy international concerns about the country's anti-money laundering law and pave the way for the country's exit from the international blacklist of uncooperative countries within the year.

Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas Governor Rafael Buenaventura, speaking at the congressional signing ceremony yesterday, said he believed the country had adequately addressed and clarified concerns about the measures raised by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF).

The Paris-based FATF, set up to combat money laundering, sought clarification on some provisions in the law, including the threshold set for reporting suspicious transactions.

"By December, FATF may decide to take us out (of the watchlist)," said Buenaventura, who also chairs the newly formed Anti-Money Laundering Council.

However, certain quarters expressed uncertainty about the removal of the country from the watchlist by December.

Sen. Francis Pangilinan, a member of the bicameral oversight committee, shared the view of Misamis Oriental Rep. Oscar Moreno and Securities and Exchange Commission Chair Lilia Bautista that the removal of the Philippines from the watchlist remained uncertain despite the signing of the IRR.

"The de-listing is not going to happen in the plenary in June. The next plenary session is in November and it is not likely to happen there either," said Pangilinan.

Bautista, for her part, said the delisting process would take sometime. She said the Asia-Pacific Group of the Paris-based FATF

DIRTY/ B4

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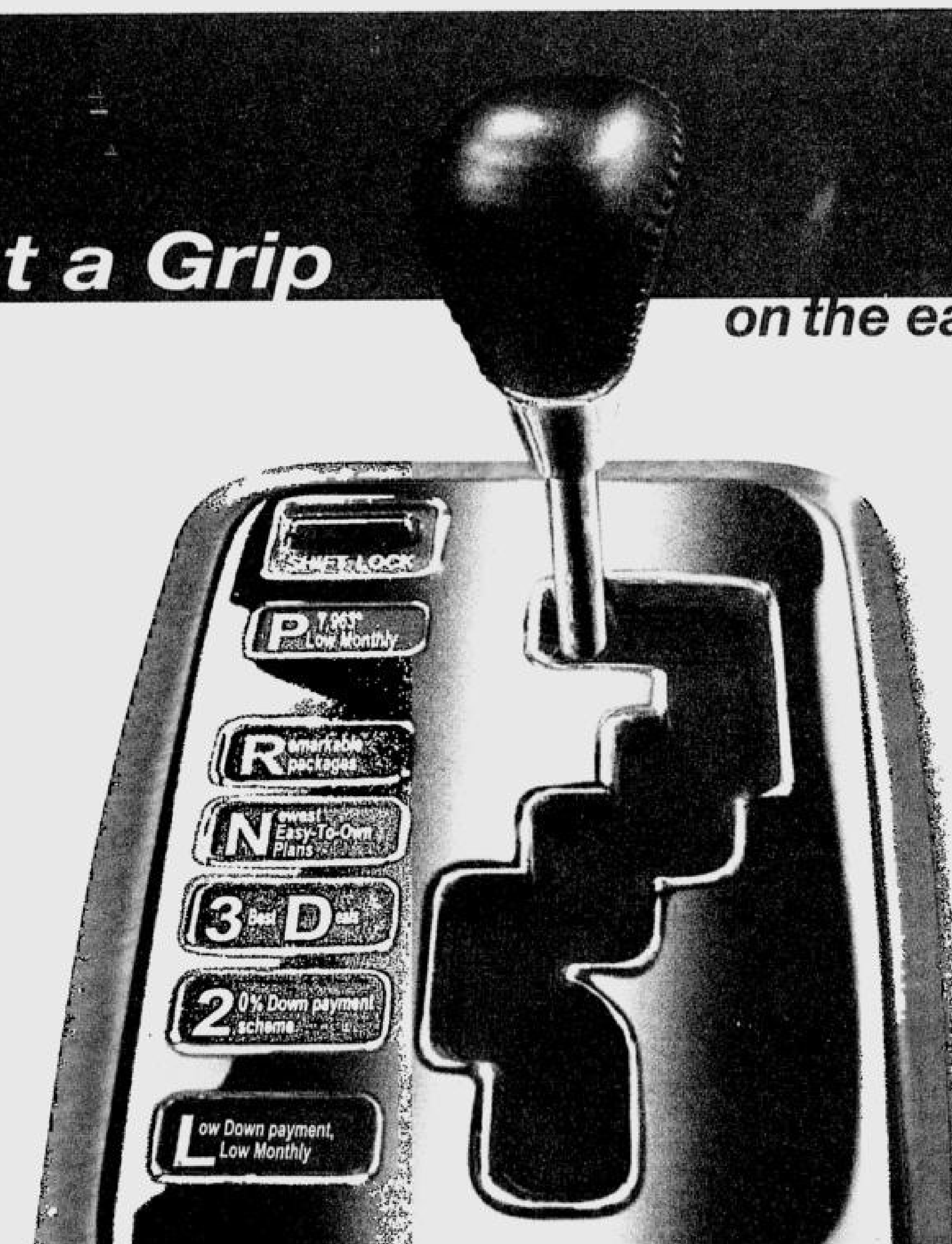

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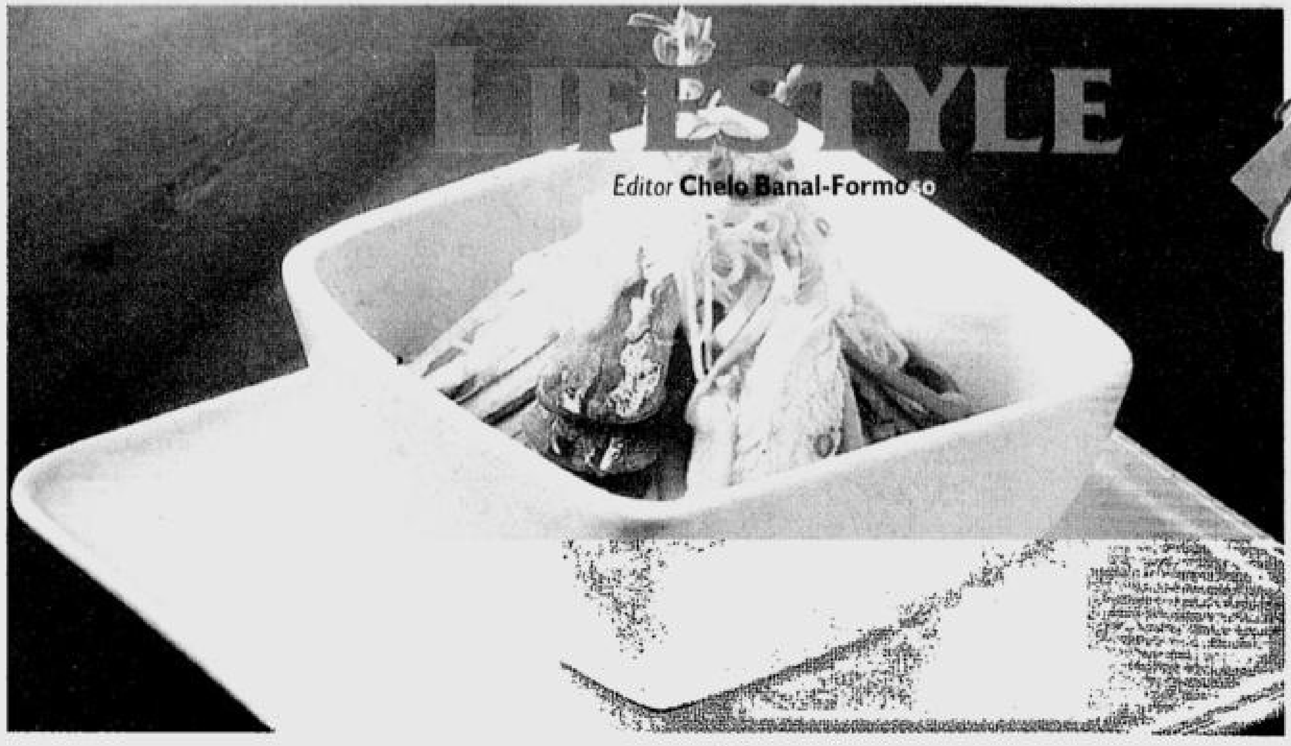

LIFESTYLE

Editor Chelo Banal-Formoso

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HIYASHI
Somen
Fusion

PARTNERS Adib Tamano and Gigo Alampay; Chef Kenneth Cacho between them

Gallery and culinary adventure

THIS food and art adventure transpired on Perea Street in Makati, the street in Legaspi Village which lies between Ayala Museum and the Makati Medical Center, a one-way street of surprising width, thus convenient for parking (on both sides) after 5 p.m. It is filled with residential and commercial condominiums, and dotted with eateries.

IN GOOD TASTE

Doreen G. Fernandez

The Red Dot Gallery Café (G/F Sunrise Terrace Condominium, 100 Perea St.; tel. 816-2877) is one of them, both mini restaurant and art gallery, open daily except Sunday, 11 a.m.-11 p.m. It is named after the red dot that gallery managers paste on one corner of a painting to indicate that it has been sold. The pleasant and personable partners who run it, Gigo Alampay and Adib Tamano, see it as a space for young artists and their young clients: Young couples probably building their first homes and buying their first paintings ("starter kits," Gigo calls them); a nonintimidating space for people like them (Gigo is a lawyer; Adib a Chicken Bacolod franchisee; both have grade school children).

The art gallery features Southeast Asian art, and the restaurant, Southeast Asian food. Art exhibits are held every two or three weeks, and the last one, which ran Feb. 23 to March 8, was of Vietnamese lacquer paintings by Dinh Quan, Cong Quoc and Dinh Hanh, titled "Women of Vietnam." TheAsianArtist.com, which owns the gallery, calls itself "the premier one-stop interact source for Southeast Asian art" (www.theasianartist.com).

> The Red Dot, named after the red dot placed on one corner of a painting to indicate it has been sold, shows Southeast Asian art and serves Southeast Asian food

Three versions

On the restaurant side: Chef Kenneth Cacho is young, too, but has had experience in Le Soufflé, where Billy King, Jessie Sincioco and Andreas Katzer have helped many young chefs along on their first steps up the ladder, and was sous chef at the Tivoli Grill at the Mandarin Hotel for six years, until Red Dot opened barely more than a month ago.

The restaurant menu, featuring his creations, encompasses "a distinct blend of traditional Southeast Asian flavors prepared in a unique and contemporary style." It is presented on a small laminated *carte* illustrated with thumbnail reproductions of paintings, and there are three versions, such that each of us had the same menu but with different layouts.

Our strong, unanimous, enthusiastic suggestion: Have the duck—as Roast Duck Salad (Hoisin-roasted, on a bed of mandarin oranges, lettuce hearts, with Chinese black vinaigrette and scallion oil) or as Crispy Duck (Asian duck confit with lettuce hearts, poached tomatoes, kaffir lime leaves and sautéed potatoes with toasted sesame seeds). Or have the Oriental Duck Paté with chives and cinnamon pancakes. To live and die for.

Chef Kenneth says he uses locally grown duck of the Peking variety, and simmers it long hours to get the tenderness and flavor he wishes. So who needs foreign ducks?

GALLERY/ p.C3

you are like no other

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Expert opinion

An interview with Custom Blend specialist Lori Kutch

Q: Prescriptives has many shades of foundations to choose from.
Why should I get Colorprinted?
Colorprinting is the first step in finding the right match for foundation. Everyone's skin tone, from the lightest to the darkest, falls into one of four Color Families. If we do not have something that matches your skin, then we can custom-blend the foundation to your skin.

Q: I've got really dark skin. Is Prescriptives for me?
For many years, someone with a darker skin tone has struggled to find the right shade. They usually end up buying two base shades and trying to mix them on their own. At Prescriptives, we have a strong custom blend for a woman of darker skin tone. We can get your exact match for foundation and powder as well as offer the appropriate treatment benefits for your skin.

Q: I don't use foundation. Can I get away with just using loose powder?
We recommend a foundation, because it really protects and evens out the skin. However, if a woman has a flawless face and she chooses to only wear powder, then I suggest having it custom-blended. This way, she is wearing her exact shade of powder.

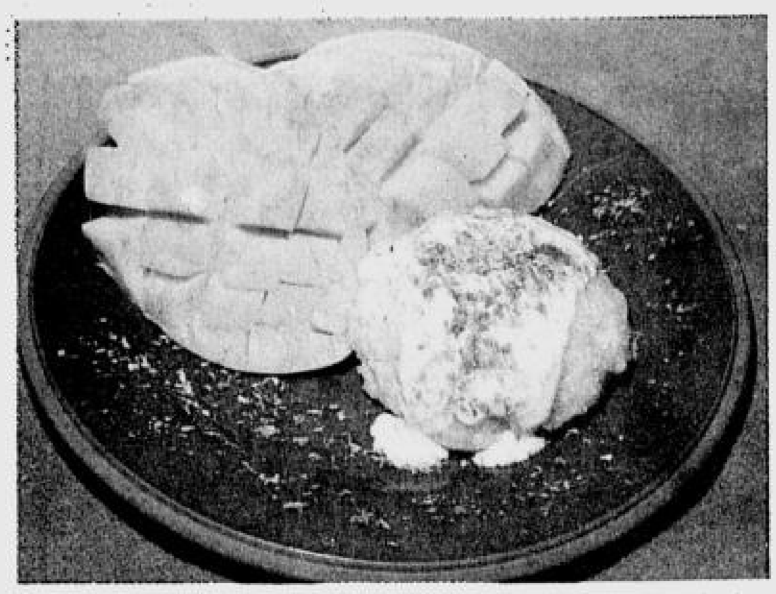
LORI KUTCH, the Custom Blend Expert

Teresita Bueno, 52 years old, Area Manager, Ayala Plans Inc.
"I love using Prescriptives Custom Blend Powder because of the natural finish it gives my skin and my husband totally agrees with me."

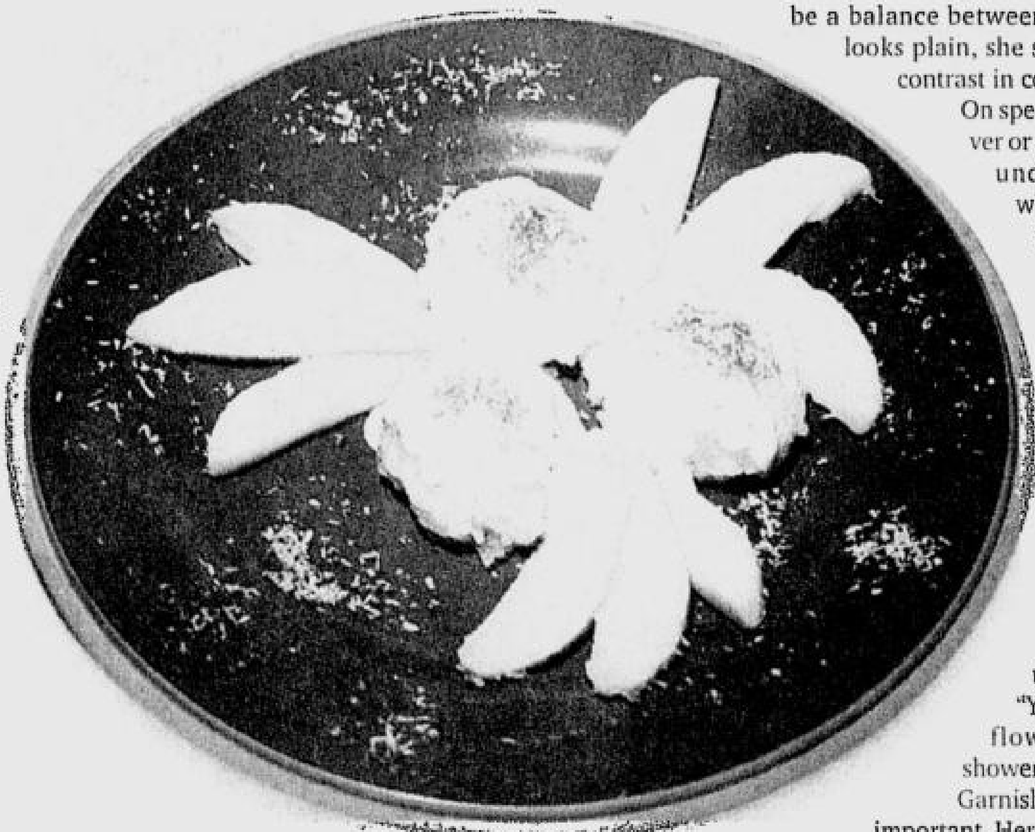
Majo Garcia, MBA Graduate and mother of two children, 35 years old.
"Looking for the perfect foundation has been quite a frustrating experience as I have already tried several brands of foundation. Even the much-vaunted Japanese brands do not blend perfectly on the colour of my skin. Something always seems to be amiss, something was off. But when Prescriptives finally arrived in Manila, I simply had to give in to the experience of Colorprinting and what they have popularly prided themselves in – the magic of custom-blended foundation! Ever since then, I've been a proponent of custom-blended foundation, more so to friends who have suffered the same frustration as I have had. Gone are the days of getting a foundation so off that I would look more Amerasian than Asian, and Prescriptives has clinched the right hue to blend into the color of my skin, giving it a soft warmth, a soft glow but still retaining my real color."

PRESCRIPTIVES
CUSTOM BEAUTY

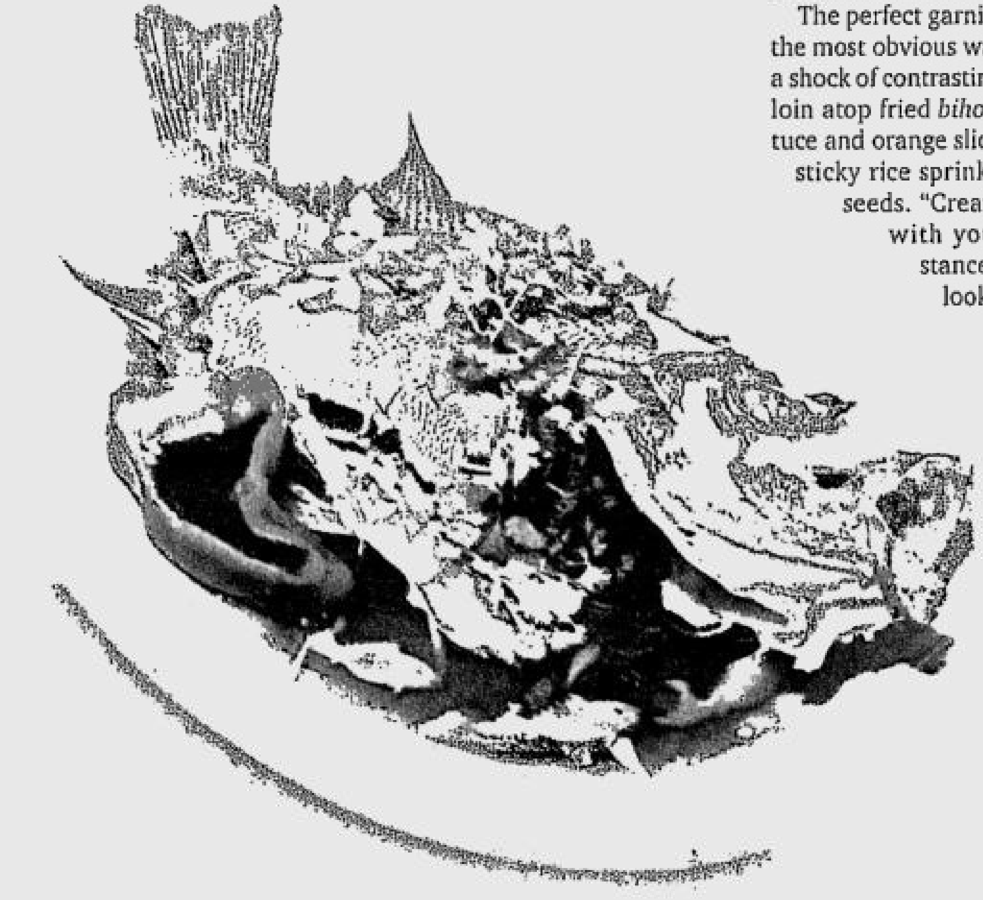
Looks matter



THE USUAL preparation of Thai Sticky Rice with Mangoes is, in Ferreria's view, "too masculine and lacks art."



SHE molded the sticky rice into smaller mounds, with ripe mangoes thinly sliced to lend the dessert some finesse and make it easier to eat and serve.



BELL pepper is used for the sauce of Restaurant Style Steamed Fish.

From page C4

to make it look good (even though s/he might have done just that), Ferreria says. Compared to the 1980s, when elaboration was the theme in cooking, today's buzzwords are simple and down-to-earth.

"Don't make people feel intimidated by what's on the plate," she says. "Food should be approachable."

After styling hundreds of luscious-looking plates for books, magazines and cooking shows, her philosophy on making food look beautiful is straightforward. "Use plain and textured china in pretty, basic colors in order to highlight the food. Go for a printed plate if the food is very plain. People tend to use overly ornate dishes with lots of design that end up competing with food."

When Ferreria looks at a plate, her eye is first drawn to color. "I pay more attention to color than texture," she says, "but there has to be a balance between the two." If a dish looks plain, she suggests introducing contrast in color and/or texture.

On special occasions, use silver or dark-colored plates as underliners for plain white china, if it's dinner. For lunch, focus on pastels.

When doing food styling tricks for photography and video, Ferreria opts for bed sheets, pillowcases and comforters with nice, refreshing designs as backdrop for dishes. "Go for the unusual," she says. "You can also use fresh flowers in a vase or a shower of petals as props."

Garnishing is also extremely important. Her favorite quick-fix garnishes are red, green or yellow ingredients. These colors make food come alive. But the garnish has to make sense and has to relate to the ingredients in the dish.

The perfect garnish, Ferreria says, is one of the most obvious ways to dress up a dish. Try a shock of contrasting color—strips of beef sirloin atop fried *bihon*, roast chicken with lettuce and orange slices on the side, mounds of sticky rice sprinkled with toasted sesame seeds. "Create one simple focal point with your garnish. In some instances, a minimalist approach looks cleaner and more inviting than a dish that's been lavishly decorated or heavily manipulated."

Less is better

Food looks good by itself, Ferreria says, so the less fussy, the better. "Vegetarian food, with its emphasis on many different colored vegetables, looks beautiful without lots of contrivance. When food is made to look like a little Japanese garden or anything that it's not meant to be, it appears too touched, too handled, too manipulated, and I don't want to eat it."

So she pays close attention to creating visual interest with different shapes of cut-up vegetables, especially in dishes like China Beef Salad Ensemble, Easy Turbo Roast Chicken with Orange Stuffing and Dipping Sauce and Restaurant Style Steamed Fish. "Always cut the vegetables into good-sized pieces so people know what they're eating and each vegetable stands out among all the others."

In salads, go for combining dense and light textures and vivid color contrasts among the greens. "Salads have to look abundant and colorful. Generally, vegetables or any salad for that matter do not come out attractive because most people view them as diet food."

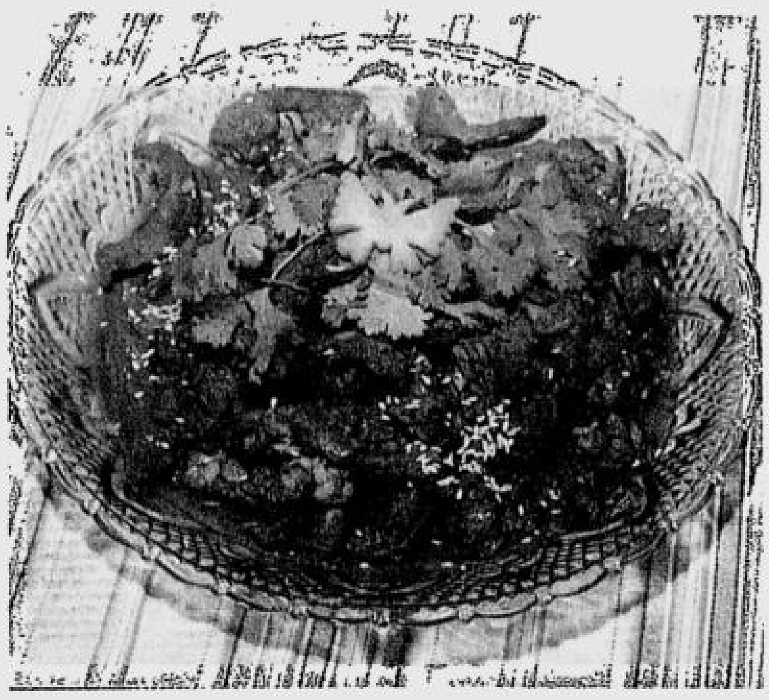
Ferreria says veggies register better when raw, style-wise. Strawberries, for instance, are sprayed with water or glycerin when used in salads.

The same goes for fish and meat, which should be half-cooked. Meat is brushed with oil or Karo syrup to make it glow. Crustaceans, on the other hand, are painted with corn oil and food color to bring out its redness.

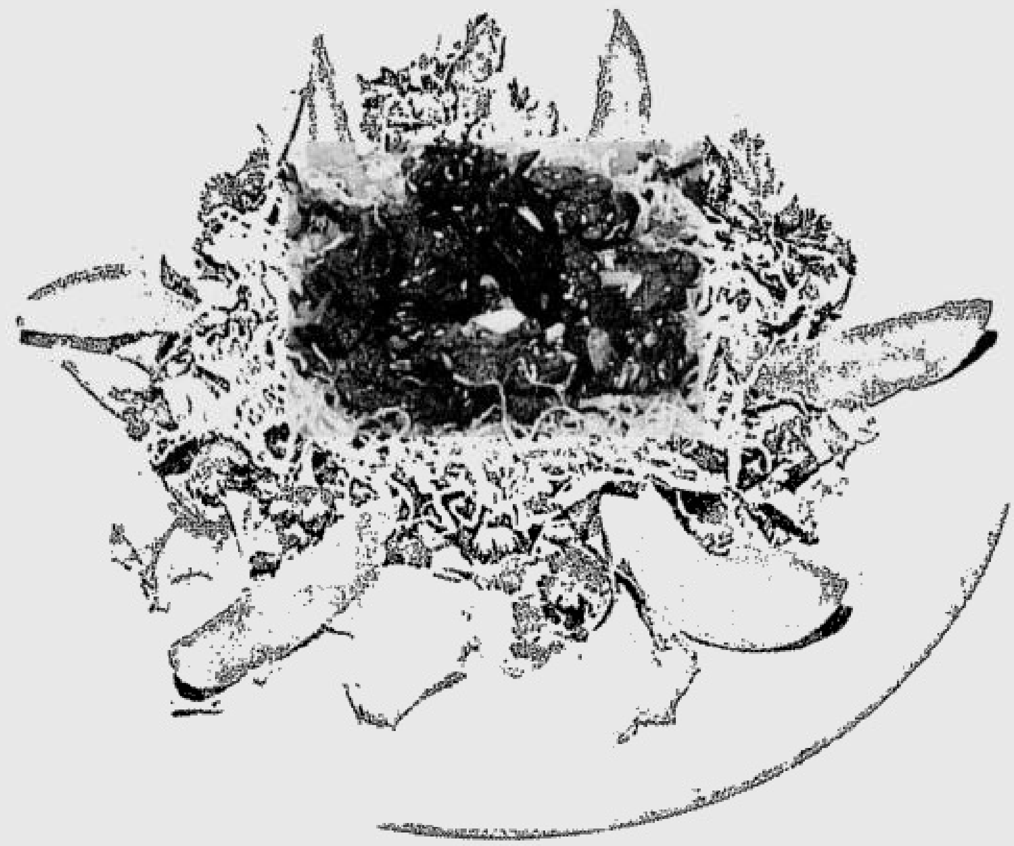
After attending to the looks of the food you are about to serve, choosing the right garnish can make a big difference in the appeal of the dish, which Ferreria demonstrated in the dishes featured here.

Appealing to the appetite is of utmost importance when styling food, Ferreria emphasizes. It's what makes readers want to cook the dishes photographed. "It's the little things, such as minced green onions, a sprinkling of fresh thinly sliced carrots or toasted sesame seeds or sprigs of wansoy, that give a dish appetite appeal. The simpler the better."

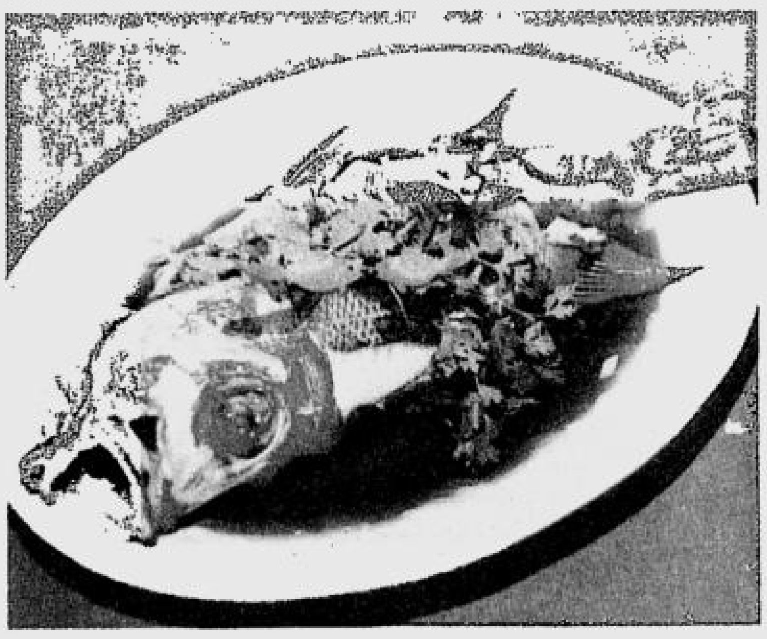
E-mail the author at rburgos@inquirer.com.ph



IN THE CHINA Beef Salad Ensemble, the beef and marinade, which Ferreria first prepared, looked like beefsteak...

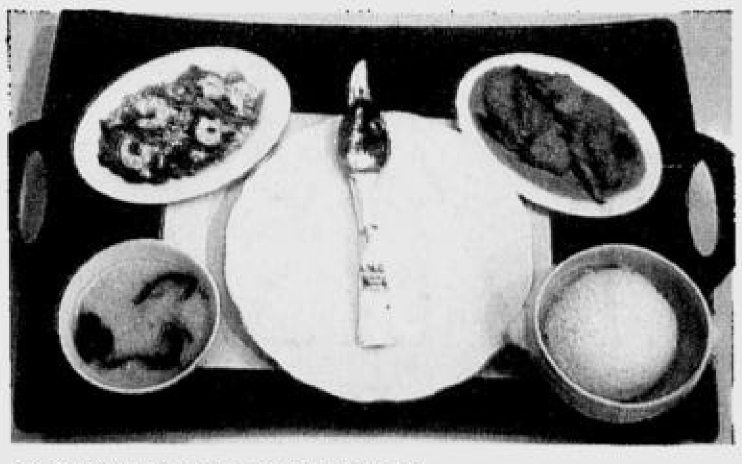


To enhance it, she used fried *bihon*, cashew nuts, lettuce, dried mangoes and peaches (below).



Old cooks' Kapampangan cooking invades the malls

BIBINGKA* comes with either *kesong puti* or *queso de bola



IM-BENTO Box is a complete meal.

KAPAMPANGAN food is so distinct anyone from northern Luzon knows if it's authentic or not. So when the owners of Mangan—Ricco Ocampo, Maritel Nievera and Rikki Dee—began product development, they went straight to the old cooks whom Pampangueños hire for fiestas.

Maritel, the lady who brought mass appeal to *buro* with her Cabalen chain (people didn't like the original Candaba recipe with its pungent smell and taste until she switched from *burong dalag* and *hito* to *hipon*), says, "The marks of authentic Kapampangan food are *malinamnam* and *malasa*, the same way Bicolano cooking is *maanghang*. Another characteristic of the cuisine is that the food is cooked slowly."

You can't expect less from Mangan since the three owners are certified food mavens, having been brought up in large families with a passion for food. Experienced restaurant operators, they admit that the Filipino trait of looking for "home-cooked Filipino food" when they're actually dining out is a little strange. Capitalizing on this, Mangan, which incidentally means "to eat" in Kapampangan and Ilocano, mixes Kapampangan comfort food with food that are not usually cooked at home.

Mangan's menu includes Ispesyal ning Bale (house specialties) or Kapampangan favorites such as *tidtad* (*dinuguan*) at *puto* (P70), *tuyo* with *kesong puti* (P60), *okoy* (P65), *lumpiang gulay* (P48), *tapang damulag* (carabao, P150), *tinapang bangus* (P120), *camote* with *giniling* in *pan de sal* (its version of panini, P50).

Mangan has its own version of the Japanese bento box with "Im-bento," which comes with basic rice, soup of the day, *atchara*, *camias* and *burong mustasa* for P40. Like the bento box, you add two dishes (separate pricing, of course) with choices ranging from *binagoongan* (P80) to *adobo* (P46), *umba* (P50), *tidtad* (P40), *asadong manok* (P70), *quilain babi* (pork *kilawin*, P50), *lechon babi* (P98), crispy *hito* (70), *pusit adobo* (P95), *hito* with *alagao* (P45), *sugpo sa alige* (P75), *lagat labanos* (P40), *ampalaya* (P40) *sigarilyas* with *bagoong* (P35) and *inihaw* items such as *liempo* (P60) and *ulo ng* salmon (P98).

Aside from the Im-bento, diners can choose *kare-kare* with *buntot ng baka* (P195), *bangus* belly in *tausi* sauce (P180), *lengua* (P195), grilled eggplant (P35) and garlic *pugo inadobo* (P120). Rice has three varieties, *milagrosa* (P20), *tinapa* rice (P35) and garlic rice (P30). For *merienda* and dessert, options include *lelut balatong* (*ginataang monggo*, P50), the original sans rival of Sta. Rita, Pampanga (P65) and *halo-halo* of Guagua (P70).

It's not only the food that is a hit with the public, but also the design of the restaurant. Calling itself "A Portrait of Modern Pinoy Cuisine," the restaurant won in Ayala Center's Best Visual Merchandising for Food Category.

Mangan has branches at Robinsons Place in Malate and Galleria in Ortigas, and Glorietta 4.

MANGAN
MANGAN

RECENTLY opened Mangan at Robinsons Galleria.

ARTWORKS on the wall are by young artists.

CRISPY Duck with lettuce hearts, poached tomatoes, kaffir lime leaves and sautéed potatoes

Gallery and culinary adventure

From page C1

Asian sampler

An Asian Tapas Sampler includes prawn and *ubod* potstickers, calamari with chili salt, baked garlic mussels with lemon oil, and crisp, sweet-hot beef *tapa*. Each one is also available as a solo appetizer. And there is one more: Oyster and Salmon Shot: a lemongrass-infused fresh Roxas City oyster in a shot glass, accompanied by salmon and coriander potstickers.

The salads are Southeast Asian in temper, very much like those in Thai menus: Warm Beef (coriander beef with fried vermicelli and vegetables in calamansi-mint vinaigrette); Eastern Calamari (deep-fried squid marinated in lime vinaigrette with chili egg salad); Oriental Tuna (coriander-marinated tuna loin with sesame seed and shredded cabbage, crisp chili tofu croutons); and Asian-style Green Salad (tossed greens topped with toasted Asian mushrooms and sesame vinaigrette). I vouch for the fact that Chef Kenneth's tiny or large green salads are made of exquisitely fresh and imaginatively laid-out vegetables, jewels in themselves.

Violet and I loved the soup: Oyster-Leek Chowder, gently green in the interesting square-shaped crockery Red Dot uses, with sweet potatoes and basil.

Lovely whiffs

The six entrées and two noodles offer an interesting variety of choices: Indonesian Beef Sate; Thai Grilled Chicken Pandan; Beef Tenderloin Special, honey-glazed with stir-fried greens, sesame-potato cake and Asian mushroom *jus*; Gindara Teriyaki; and Poached Lapu-lapu with Oriental spices, broccoli florets in garlic oil, soy-sesame *jus* and fragrant rice.

The Singaporean Noodles come with minced chili beef. I chose and truly enjoyed the cold Hiyashi Somen Fusion flavored with egg crepes, julienne vegetables, crabsticks, Hainan chicken, tuna gravlax, fried *nori* flakes and lovely whiffs of English mustard.

Three desserts are listed, and we shared two: Pandan-infused creme caramel with tapioca pearls and tropical fruit, and Passion Fruit Sorbet with fresh fruits, in an essence of green tea. Light and pleasant.

End, or if you wish, begin the meal with Iced Mint Green Tea (a pleasant digestive), or Oriental Melon flavored with anise-touched syrup; Pineapple Guava Fizzle; Calamansi and Apple Mint. And especially with the Honey Basil Tea (hot and refillable), which makes one feel Asian, healthy and dream-fulfilled.

Prices are reasonable, the highest being P180 for the Crispy Duck; the lowest P40 for the soup of the day. That's an Asian, a Philippine, grace.

We plan to return—for the future exhibits, and for the Southeast Asian art and food experiences, separately or together.

Reggie Aspiras sets March classes

THE REGGIE Aspiras School of Culinary Arts, located at the Bon Apetit, 3/F Shangri-La Plaza Mall, announces its classes for the month of March.

March 16, My Favorite Cookie Recipes—six recipes of Chocolate Chip Cookies (Giant, Triple Chocolate Chip, Souffled Peanut Butter, Brownie Thins, Espresso, White Chocolate and Macadamia), Citrus Poppy Seed Cookies with Citrus Cream Filling, Spiced Oatmeal and Raisin, Honeyed Sesame Seed, Butter Walnut, Apple Cheddar, Classic French Macaroon, Mixed Citrus Tulles with Butter Cream and Fresh Fruit, Homemade Graham Crackers Stuffed with Homemade Marshmallows (special class equivalent to two-day course).

March 22, Risotto—Arugula Duck with Mango Risotto, Saffron Risotto with Grilled Shrimp, Shallot Roast Chicken with Wild Rice and Roasted Shallot Risotto, Lamb Shanks with Sweet Potato Risotto, Oxtail Stew with Caramelized Garlic Risotto.

March 23, Pritchon Done My Way—Crisp Fried Lechon de Leche Done My Way, Served Peking Duck Style with Homemade Flavored Pancakes and 12 Sauces.

March 25, Delicious White Chocolate Desserts—Pecan Pie, Blueberry Cake with White Chocolate Frosting, White Chocolate Hazelnut Torte, Pistachio Cake with White Chocolate Butter Cream, White Chocolate Cheesecake with Caramel Sauce.

Call 633-5162 or telefax 928-9296.

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Per DTI-NCR No. 0826 Series of 2002

Even home-cooked food can be made visually appealing, says culinary expert Dorothy Ferreria

EASY Turbo Roast Chicken with Orange Stuffing and Dipping Sauce is usually served alone on a platter.

FOR A NEW look, the orange flavor is emphasized, and the roast chicken is garnished with slices of orange and carrots in different shapes and lettuce. The orange fruit is used as container for gravy.

Looks matter

By Rowena C. Burgos
Photos by Roger Carpio

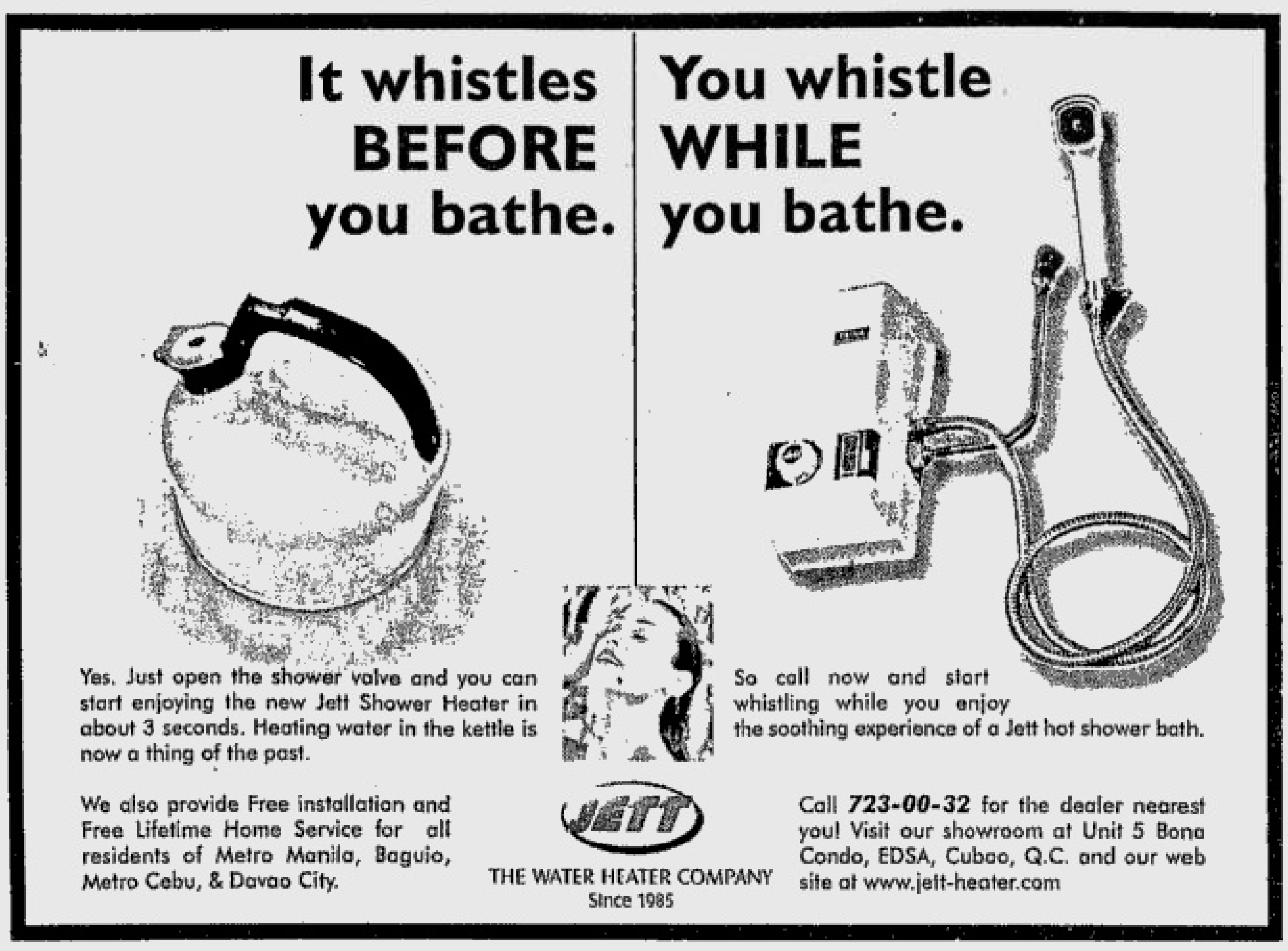
FOOD is a multisensory experience. After all, we feast with our eyes before our taste buds do, and even the humblest of home-cooked dishes can whet the appetite when stylishly presented and garnished.

"There should be something that will grab the attention of diners. It must be entirely different from the usual presentation. If a dish looks attractive, people will readily taste it," says food expert Dorothy M.J. Ferreria.

And we're not talking about the towering stacks, pyramids and arches that are sometimes featured at five-star restaurants, making you think the kitchen employs an architect full-time. Many believe that giving a dish a sense of drama for the eyes is a rarefied skill. It isn't. Preparing beautiful food is something you can do with ease, given a few suggestions.

Food should not look like the cook worked

LOOKS/ p.C2



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March 15
(Up to Midnight)

Robinsons Galleria • Robinsons Place Manila • Robinsons Place Novaliches • Robinsons Place Imus • Robinsons Town Mall, Los Baños • Robinsons Place Cebu • Robinsons Place Bacolod • Robinsons Place Iloilo

March 15-17
(3-Day Sale • Regular Store Hours)

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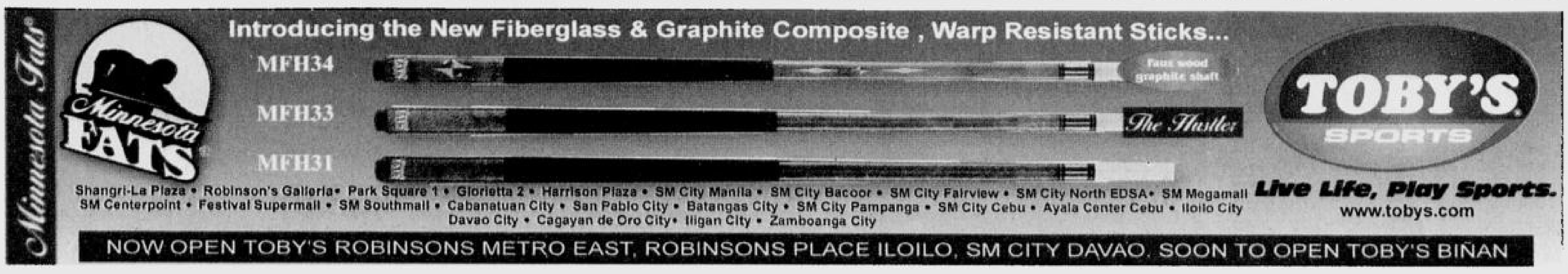

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HOME AT LAST. Debby Enriquez shares the goodness of Southeast Asia through her cooking.

The kitchen for her 'queendom'

By Alex Y. Vergara

DON'T ever mention that I was a former beauty queen!" Dina Abdullah Enriquez squealed in mock horror. "People might think I don't know anything about cooking."

After we insisted that such tidbit was necessary to the story, Debby, as family and friends call her, finally relented. After all, her experience as a former Bb. Pilipinas Young International has served her well. "My mother and then Tourism Secretary Jose Aspiras entered my name without my knowledge," she said. "The next thing I knew, I was parading on national TV in a swimsuit."

As the only child of former Ambassador Etta Enriquez, Debby had lived most of her young life in a suitcase. She was born and partly raised in the United States, and lived with her parents in various countries such as Sri Lanka, Hong Kong, Australia and Singapore.

Life abroad unwittingly prepared her for a career in the food business. She now owns and manages Jalan, Jalan, Masak, Masak (0917-8995454 or e-mail abitare@mozcom.com), a catering firm that specializes in Indian, Moroccan and Southeast Asian cuisine, except Chinese and Filipino dishes.

THE KITCHEN/ p.D2

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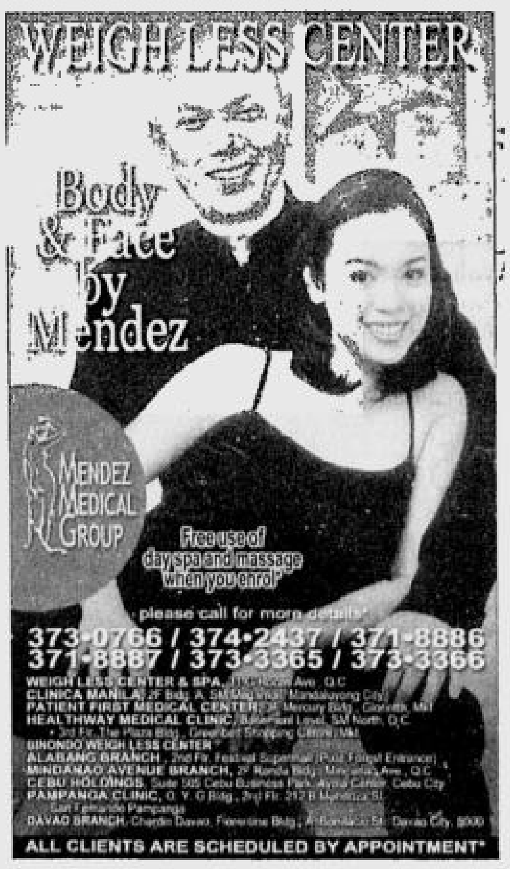

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MYSORE dhal

The kitchen for her 'queendom'

Life as a diplomat's daughter unwittingly prepared Dina Abdullah Enriquez for a career in the food business

SHALLOT curry

PHOTOS: ROMY HOMILLADA

From page D1

"Both my parents were good cooks," she said. "They definitely influenced my cooking, but I can never match my late mother when it comes to cooking Pinoy food."

"Jalan, jalan," by the way, are Malaysian words that roughly translate to "going out on a romp." *"Masak, masak"* mean *lutu-lutuan* or playing kitchen. These words aptly describe how Debby began her odyssey in the kitchen, nothing more than child's play as she traipsed from one place to another.

Her exposure to Southeast Asian cuisine began in Singapore, her mother's last posting, where the family stayed for five years. "Friends introduced me to the goodness and diversity of Southeast Asian food," she said. "After all, I had nothing to do but shop and eat in Singapore. It never crossed my mind, however, that I'd be cooking for a living."

No to fusion

Although the city-state is a veritable melting pot of races and cultures, Debby chose to steer clear of the so-called fusion cuisine. Not that she has anything against it. "I just want to serve real, simple food."

That means using only the freshest ingredients, down to the herbs and spices. Because of the growing demand for Asian dishes, she said, local farmers now grow once-exotic ingredients found only in neighboring countries. Some items with funny-sounding names, of course, have to be imported from abroad or bought from specialty stores in Metro Manila.

Keeping things simple also means staying away from MSG. "I'm totally against it," she said. "MSG is unnecessary. I always make it a point to read labels whenever I go shopping. The longer the list [of ingredients], the more I won't touch something. You have to know what you're putting into your system."

Debby's offerings understandably appeal to well-traveled and adventurous individuals. Through her e-mail campaign, she has been able to attract a considerable number of clients from the expatriate community. "But you need not be rich to avail of my services," she added. "I'm willing to make adjustments based on your budget."

More adventurous

And the rich aren't the only ones who have developed a taste for the kind of food Debby offers. "Because of the growing influence of OFWs," she observed, "Filipinos are slowly becoming more knowledgeable and adventurous when it comes to food. Why, even domestic helpers now know their wine."

Among Debby's Lenten specials are Mysore dhal and shallot curry, both light and savory vegetarian dishes made primarily of yellow and red lentils, respectively. Debby's love for anything Asian extends to the Japanese plates she used to show off the dishes.

The Mysore dhal is boiled yellow lentils, seasoned with individually roasted spices such as cumin, coriander, curry leaves and asofoetida powder. Debby tempered such a spicy combination with mustard seeds.

For the shallot curry, Debby handpicked the firmest shallot or *sibuyas* Tagalog, peeled them whole and cooked them in red lentils and chili paste. She then fried the shallots separately, before letting them simmer in water and grated coconut. She later combined all the ingredients and added a dash of curry powder.

Afraid of all those spices? "I can make adjustments as long as they're within the framework of a particular menu. I'm not a vegetarian myself, but I know the proper way to prepare vegetarian food. I can cook almost anything, but pork," said Debby, who has converted to Islam.

Even baking

Before going full-time into catering three years ago, she tried her hand at baking and supplying breads to hotels and airlines. She later trained as a baker in Switzerland, a country known for its excellent breads. Upon her return, she set up La Boulangerie, the precursor of today's French Baker and Deli France.

"We used to have 14 outlets in leading supermarkets," she said. The economic crisis that gripped the country in the 1980s made it impossible to sustain operations, especially since Debby had to import flour from abroad.

With such a checkered experience in the food business, putting up a restaurant would seem to be the next most logical thing for her to do. But no thanks.

"I've been through that before," she said. "We used to manage Casablanca, a European-style bistro in the '80s. It was hard work. I'm happy where I am now." The peripatetic Debby has finally found where she belongs.

E-mail the author at avergara@inquirer.com

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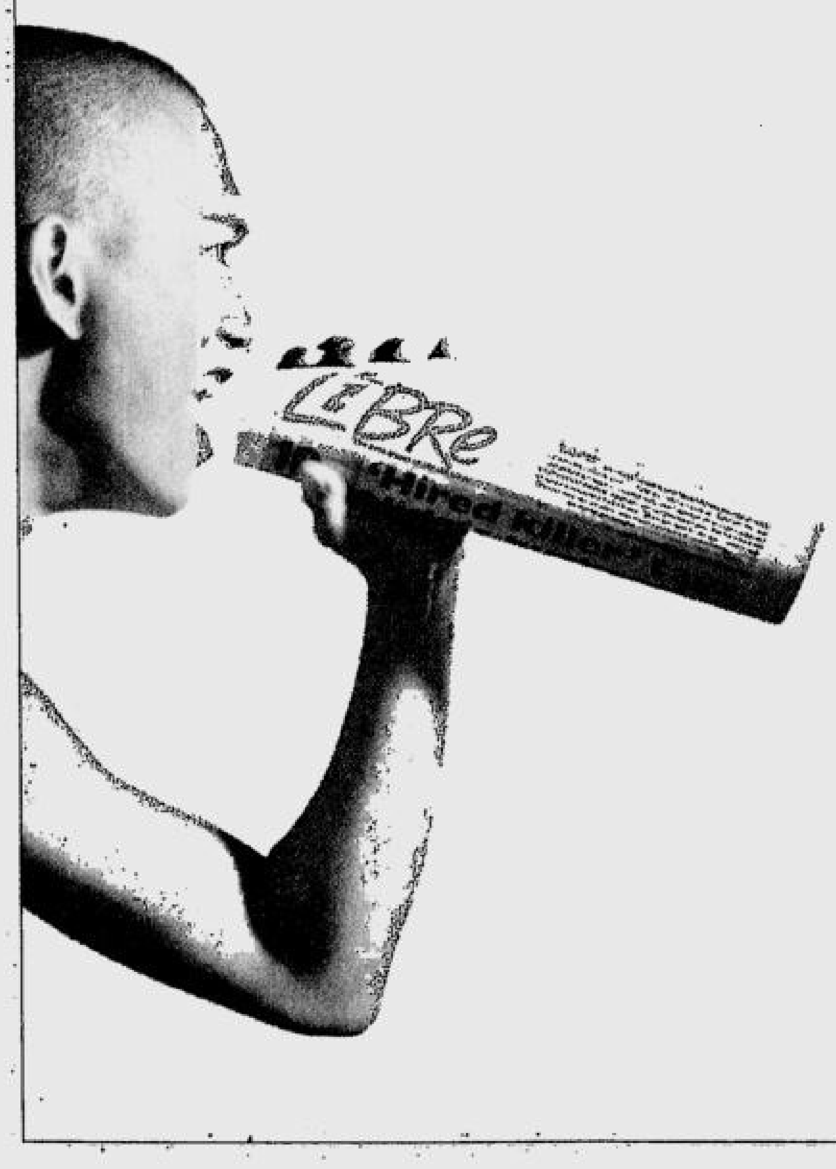

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DUSIT'S master Thai chef Khun Suwattee Teerapath will hold Royal Thai cooking classes at the Benjarong Royal Thai Restaurant, mezzanine level, Dusit Hotel Nikko, on March 20, 9:30 a.m.-12 nn. Dishes include Gung Hom Sabai (deep-fried stuffed prawns wrapped in egg noodles); Tom Kha Gai (soup of chicken and Galangal shoots in coconut milk); Pla Krapong Lean Nam Ma Kham (fried seabass in tamarind sauce), and Morakot Krob (jellied water chestnuts in iced coconut milk). Fee is P850 inclusive of set lunch and a set of Thai recipes and other materials. Call 867-3333 local 3351 to 3353.

Learn new recipes and linen presentation

ENROLL in linen presentation March 16, 9 a.m.-1 p.m. and learn a dozen style of napkin folding and table skirting. The course fee is inclusive of take-home materials for your personal use.

Also on the same day, Cakeshop Specialty will feature mouthwatering cakes like Sylvanas, Caramel Crunch Cake, White Forest Cake, Tiramisu and Chocolate Custard Cake with Macapuno at 1:30-5 p.m.

Catering will be held at 9 a.m.-3 p.m. Topics include Portion Control, Costing, Inventory, Table Layout and Equipment Sourcing with actual preparation of popular catering dishes like Morcon, Galantina, Pork Asado, Soy Chicken, Roast Pork, Baked Macaroni, All-Meat Paella and Special Gulaman.

Call 892-1185/5011 local 108.

Beyond happy hour

STARTING March 15, Tequila Joe's, which is now on its fourth year, is treating customers to four affordable and carefully picked packages for groups of all sizes, shapes and budget requirements. The P300 Drink Match includes five bottles of Budweiser matched with sumptuous Asian Chicken Tenders. For the P500 Drink Match, clients can choose from a pitcher of Weng-weng, Margarita or Zombie, with the appetizer match of an exquisite Quezon Locos Pizza (Aria Foods).

Crispy Calamari goes with the five bottles of imported beers in the P800 Drink Match. Finally, the P1,200 Drink Match consists of a bottle of Tequila Jose Cuervo Gold with its ideal partner of Chili and Chips for appetizers.

The promo is good at all three Tequila Joe's branches at Glorietta 4, Ayala Center; Corte de las Palmas, Alabang Town Center; and El Pueblo in Ortigas.

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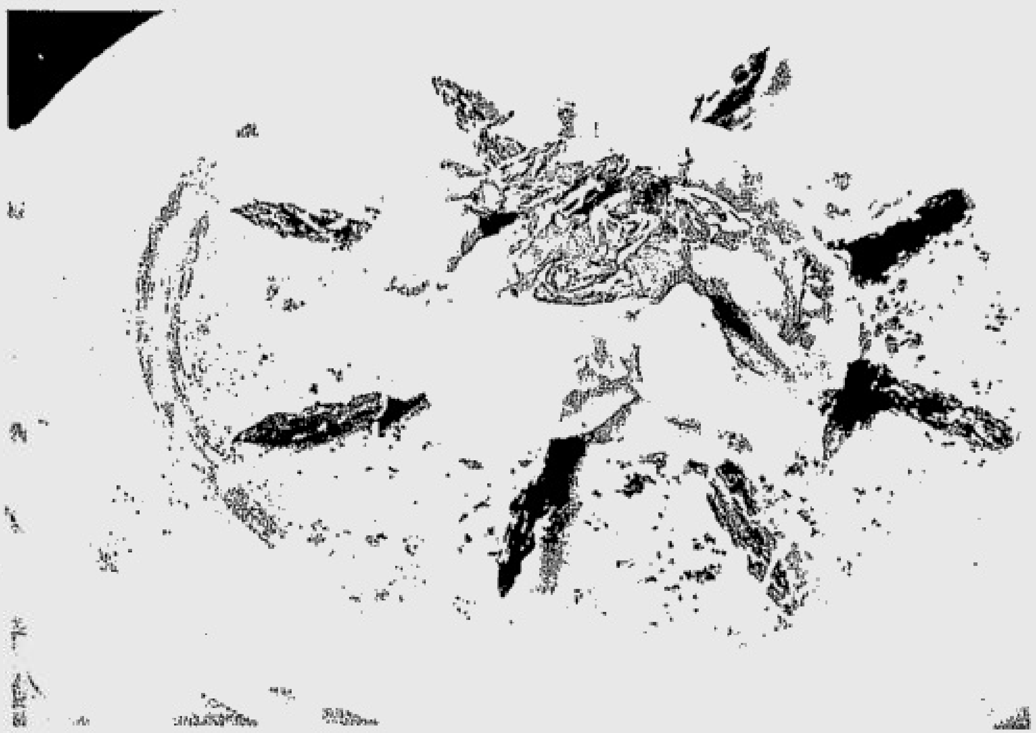

BLUE Bacon and Green Eggs' baked prawns with asparagus served with mashed potatoes and Parmesan cheese

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DINING OUT

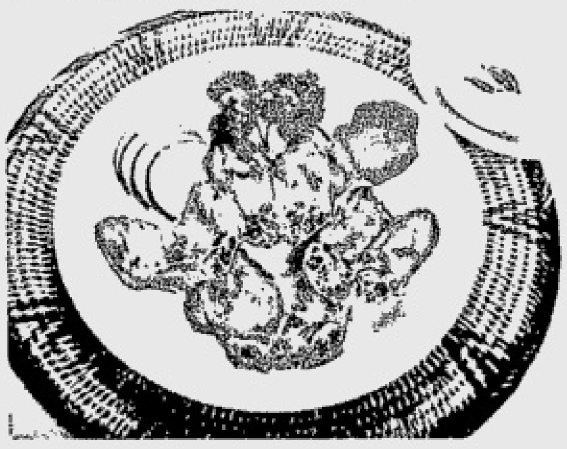
KAMAYAN offers "Kamayan para sa Barangay 7 Buffet Price Off" wherein a group of seven pays for only six. "Kamayan Exotica" features Asia's choicest cuisine cooked the Filipino way: Korean Squid Saute, Indonesian Grilled Chicken with Lemon Grass, Thai Stir-Fried Rice, Chinese Mixed Vegetables with Chicken and Shrimp, Singaporean Tamarind Chicken and Malaysian Stir Fried Spicy Kangkong. Desserts include Malaysian Lilot (rice cooked in coconut milk mixed with jackfruit and green mango), Singaporean Strawberry Balls and Hopiang Camote at Langka. Kamayan is at SM Megamall, Glorietta 3, Alabang Town Center, Pasay Road, Padre Faura, Edsa and West Avenue.

BLUE BACON AND GREEN EGGS perks up dining this month with Baked Prawns with Asparagus served with Mashed Potatoes with Parmesan Cheese or Baked Norwegian Salt Cod (Bacalhau) with Potatoes, Feta Cheese, Herbs and Spices served with Mixed Green Salad with Balsamic and Olive Oil Dressing. Cap your meal with a delicious serving of Crema al Marsala. Not only that, a special treat awaits diners every Friday as the 6th Element performs classic and contemporary music, while Saturdays are full of soothing tunes played by the San Agustin Music Ensemble. Blue Bacon and Green Eggs is located at 27 Lantana corner Boston Streets, New Manila, QC. It is open 10 a.m.-10 p.m. daily. Call 721-7666/2717 or 726-8054.

KABAYAN CAFÉ offers authentic Filipino cuisine, from *kilawin tanigue* or *sisig* to *suam na halaan at mais*, *caldereta*, chicken *inasal*, *sinugbang buntot ng bariles*, *inihaw na bangus*. *Lamayo*, its flagship product, is a must for breakfast—a deep-fried fish found only in the seas of Palawan, ideal with *sinangag*, *adobo* rice or *champorado*. *Sinugbang buntot ng bariles* is grilled General Santos tuna ends served with seaweed salad. The *caldereta* is a spicy beef stew with potatoes, carrots, cheese and bell pepper. It goes well with red wine or beer. Kabayan Cafe's *inihaw na bangus* only uses Bunoan milkfish from Dagupan. Kabayan Café is located at the Kabayan Hotel at the foot of the MRT Taft Avenue station in Pasay City corner Zamora Street and Edsa. Call 891-7878.

BRAVO!, Manila's popular authentic Italian restaurant bar, kicks off its Festa del Vino with a free bottle of Vino Spumante exclusively for the graduates of 2002. This year's high school and college graduates are entitled to enjoy a full bottle of fine sparkling Italian champagne when they celebrate with a group of 10 at Bravo's two locations: Adriatico corner J. Nakpil Street in Malate and at the Festival Mall in Alabang. The Festa highlights a 50-percent discount off Bravo's distinct Italian wine list every day after 10 p.m. A mini bar to offer free wine-tasting to Malate habitués will be set up at the Adriatico Street outlet every Friday and Saturday evenings.

YOSHINOYA, the oldest and most popular *gyudon* fast-food chain in Japan, serves its top-selling specialty, the superior quality beef bowl *gyudon*, plus rice toppings with grilled boneless teriyaki chicken or marinated pork or the beef and chicken combo. The filling rice bowls, available in regular and large sizes, are reasonably priced from P59 up, and are complemented by Yoshinoya's green iced tea. Yoshinoya is at SM Southmall.



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